Daily Report

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Cuba

Castro Holds News Conference 5 Aug in La Paz

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["Text" of news conference by Cuban President Fidel Castro with unidentified Cuban reporters in La Paz, Bolivia on 5 August—recorded]

[Text] [Castro] Let us begin talking, all we are going to do is talk.

[Reporter] Right.

[Castro] I heard on the radio that I was traveling to La Paz. I heard it on the radio. [Words indistinct] I had not really made a final decision. It was dependent on a technical problem: If the Il- 62 could or could not land at an altitude of 4,000 meters. This technical matter had not been resolved yet. They conducted a test. I had not spoken yet with the comrades who analyzed the situation because they arrived just before dawn. When the comrades gave the technical report, I asked them if it was possible or not for the Il-62 to land and take off. [laughs] By then the news had spread worldwide. This is why I say that I heard about the trip on the radio.

Of course, we were going to do everything possible to make the trip anyway but we do not have any other planes but the Il-62. The Il-62 is a plane that lands at great speed. At an altitude of 4,000 meters that speed increases even more. We had to calculate well how much fuel it was going to take for the flight and landing. This airport is the world's highest at over 4,000 meters.

[Reporter] It was a good trip and a good, good [repeats] landing.

[Castro] This is what I was told. We also had to study what was required for takeoff because an Il-62 had never been at this altitude. They suggested that a test be conducted. You know how things are. Every time there is a trip, there are a lot of complications. There is always a conflict between one's desire to reduce expenses to a minimum and the opinions of others and their wish to do things as safely as possible. The test was conducted and Robertico [Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina] came. He was coming to represent Cuba in case I was not able to come. I told Robertico: You are going as the guinea pig [words indistinct] but you are going safely. A very small group of people were sent in the test.

Later on, a cable from Robertico announced that the test was successful [laughs]. The experiment was successful and he explained it, not only explained the test but in a few words he told me of the situation in Bolivia and the expectation created concerning my trip, the number of people waiting and hoping for the trip. Therefore, he advocated strongly that I make the trip. That was what contributed to taking the decision to travel, while disregarding everything else. [laughs] My trip was already announced but Robertico wrote of extraordinary things regarding the existing interest.

[Reporter] How has the reception been?

[Castro] I have to truly talk about this. After my arrival....[changes thought] Naturally, I do not travel much. I try to keep travel to a minimum. I was trying to do several things at the same time. On these trips, one always makes contact with many people, much of the Third World, the media, and also other possibilities. There are always certain obligations that one has to discuss. [Words indistinct] but I simply want to say that I had a number of reasons to make the trip, but I could also have had a number of reasons to not make it. I left the country very recently and I wanted to evaluate it carefully.

The technical conditions of the trip worried many comrades. All these opinions have to be taken into consideration but the fact is that I arrived at the conclusion that I had to make this trip.

Very well. A few hours after arriving, I realized that if I had not traveled to Bolivia it would have been an act of cruelty against who knows how many people. It would have been an act of thoughtlessness against not only the Bolivian people, but the authorities, organizations, and everyone else because ever since the Sao Paulo Forum they have been insisting that I come. Some of the Bolivians who were there, including some ministers and party representatives, had strongly insisted that I make the trip, but I could not have imagined the level of expectation that was created because of this trip. It is true that everyone [word indistinct] of the trip. Having direct contact is different from just having someone tell you something. When one has direct contact, as I have had today with Bolivia, with the Bolivian authorities, both civilian and military, and with the people everywhere, one realizes that not to have made the trip would have been a cruel act. I repeat, it would have been a thoughtless act toward these people and this country.

We know Bolivia's entire history, just as we know the history of many countries in the world, as long-suffering and as combative as this one. If by any reason they wanted our presence here, I realized that not to come would have been a big mistake, not for the benefits, prestige, friendship that this trip could represent to Cuba, but because it would have caused great frustration and disillusion to the Bolivian people.

As a matter of fact, judging by what I have seen, I reached that conclusion after being here a few hours. To begin with, no one knew our route, or the time or anything. There were many people along our path, especially here in the hotel. We entered the hotel. It took a great effort to be able to enter the hotel. It seemed like a tidal wave of people. There was no way to control the crowd. The guards were trying to contain the crowd. One suffers when you see the efforts of the people and when you see the guards and the policemen trying to maintain order and being unable to do so. One does not want to

give the impression of disorder, or of creating disorder, but it seemed like a tidal wave, like one of those waves that hits the coast.

We came up to the floor where we are. I do not even know what floor it is. I know it is one of the top floors. There, we looked through some small windows and saw many people outside carrying Cuban flags, signs, banners. There was an enormous one that must have been at least 20 meters long and it looked like a painting. What do you call those? It was painted on cloth. It was a painting approximately 20 meters long. It was a sign that was very wide and very long. Those people kept passing by out there and we did not know what to do. Finally, a comrade suggested that we get closer to the crowd because up where we were you could not see anything. So they took us to a small room on the first floor. They took me to an office on the first floor and they opened one of the windows and I was able to look out. At that moment I was able to calculate that there were approximately 10,000 people there.

There were several rows of soldiers and policemen on this side. There were others over there forming a line. The incredible thing was the possibility of establishing a dialogue there between me and the people. I did not think that was possible because they were chanting so many slogans that it was impossible to hear. It was impossible for anyone's voice to be heard. The first impressive thing were the slogans we are most familiar with: "Yes to Cuba! No to the Yankees!" etc., etc. They were chanting all the slogans that we are familiar with.

I was thinking that if I had a loudspeaker I would have been able to speak to them.

[Reporter] They said they heard you.

[Castro] Yes. The curious thing was that....[pauses] in addition to the altitude, the cold temperature in the morning, the noise of the plane, and the conversations in the plane, the voice is not at its best. I did not know if I would be able to talk. I even remembered ancient history. I remembered the famous assemblies held by the privileged citizens of Rome, those who had rights. They were only a few but they could fill a square. I have always wondered: How did they manage to speak to so many people when there were no microphones? We are so used to using microphones. We can even speak softly.

A singular phenomenon took place there. They were chanting their slogans and all that and suddenly there was complete, absolute silence from those 10,000 people. Then, I was able to say something. To my surprise, all those people there were able to hear what I was saying. I did not think any throat could withstand speaking under those conditions, but they heard me perfectly.

It was something completely improvised. The television here has a copy. The people were very enthusiastic, applauded, chanted slogans again, and all that. After a few minutes they were in total silence again and I would speak some more to them. I would speak another paragraph of [words indistinct]. I have been told that on the altiplano, at these high altitudes, there is less oxygen. I heard the [words indistinct] asking for oxygen. I have never been so short of breath anywhere else.

Regarding the stimulus their behavior represented [words indistinct] the peoples of the altiplano are cold. I have never seen warmer people. What is interesting about this phenomenon is how they would go silent periodically. It was a total silence. You could even hear a fly. They showed unexplainable discipline. There was not even one breaking the silence and shouting slogans alone. I have never seen anything like it. There was a total, absolute silence to speak several paragraphs and they would start up again. I spoke a little louder and told them that other visitors, other delegations were waiting, that I had to go inside. They asked me not to. However, their reaction was incredible. They showed great discipline. [Words indistinct] to free the roads.

Another anecdote [laughs] [Words indistinct] I have seen this very few times.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] drink coca tea.

[Reporter] This is very important because....

[Castro, interrupting] Yes, the coca tea is something that is given to you almost the instant you arrive. [Words indistinct] of the altiplano people. This is something for which they have to be thankful to the coca leaf. They are not responsible, nor guilty for the fact that civilization came along to extract cocaine from the coca leave. Who knows what could be extracted from tobacco, or from coffee, or tea, or anything else. They feel the pain of having a tradition of millenniums being threatened. They are being threatened with the eradication of a custom. Just as the British, Hindu, or Chinese drink tea. Tell the Chinese all of a sudden that they cannot drink tea anymore. For them the coca leaf has been more than a custom; it has been a medicine. Their aide-de-camp was explaining to me that on the altiplano the Indians use the llamas to carry about 30 kg but [words indistinct] a times they travel 300 km from one place to the other and they chew it. It is said that it helps them. It is said that their teeth are excellent. It mitigates hunger. In other words, for them this plant has been a medicine, not an activity such as drinking coffee. Someone brought over several cups.

I was stressing: The coca is not cocaine. Coca is not cocaine [repeats]. I drank it twice. I think that it did help me. [laughs] I also noticed that there were many young people. They are very enthusiastic, full of fighting spirit very warm. I would have never been able to imagine what I saw today. They are proper, refined, courteous people. They are attentive to your every need, everywhere, in all things everyone shows the same behavior without exception. We have already noticed it this afternoon.

Since my arrival I have already visited the National Palace twice. One, for the ceremony in which the heads of the delegations greet the departing president and another, a reception hosted by [word indistinct]. Since I was the last one. They put me at the end as a favor.

Since there was very little time, they scheduled my arrival last to help me. Both times I encountered a multitude of people with the same warmth and enthusiasm, but I also encountered great warmth and solidarity among all the workers, employees of the office there. Tonight, there were Bolivians and foreigners [words indistinct]. That was a Greco-Roman fight. Since I arrived there to be able to cross the [word indistinct], to be able to go up the stairs, to cross the halls upstairs. They took me along. Finally, I have to confess that we had to escape through an exit. There is a section under construction in the building and I said: Is there a fire escape? I was up there and had to leave. [Words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] television is broadcasting this live.

[Castro] The television? What I am saying now?

[Reporter] What happened this afternoon.

[Castro] I told the people of [words indistinct] that for the first time I was on the brink of doing something I have never done before: To declare myself defeated. [laughs] It was truly unbearable between the altitude, the air, and all those things but the physical, superhuman effort that had to be done there. In addition to the care with which everything has to be done. We met painfully courteous people, no one even complained. The Bolivian and Cuban security personnel, as always, [words indistinct] have to stop people from getting up close. They have to keep a distance. I have not heard a single complaint. The amount of photos taken is incredible. This was the prevailing mood among all the people. It was seemingly highly contagious for many of the delegations.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] What was President Paz Zamora's answer to you?

[Castro] It was very good and took long. This is why the schedule was changed later. We spoke about several issues. He seemed to be in a very good mood, pleased. He showed me a map and explained many things regarding Bolivia's flora, fauna, history, the altiplano world, and the Amazonian world. He said he believes there is no other country with such ecobiological wealth. That is the technical name he used.

I wanted to add that in no other country are there such contrasts, the biological wealth, the altiplano, the mountains climbing to 5,000-6,000 meters, the plateaus, the valleys, every type of climate. Just as we have north fronts, they have south fronts in the winter. These also bring in rains. Approximately half of the territory is Amazonian region and the other half is altiplano. [Words indistinct] He told me a lot about every type of region, new mineral, fuel resources. He was so enthusiastic that it seemed [words indistinct]. We also discussed political issues. It was very good. He seemed in a very good mood. The conversation was broad.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] Imagine that. It is truly incredible. That is the last drop. Besides, it has no right at all to complain. [Words indistinct] sovereign rights of the country but I do not want to speak too much about some of these issues. I do not want to be indiscrete. The conversation was very good, very friendly, as always, since I first met him. I met him for the first time in Nicaragua at the celebration of the first anniversary of the Sandinists victory. He was returning from medical treatment he had received in the United States, a very intensive treatment for burns. His face was still very disfigured from that accident that almost cost him his life. That was in 1980. Since then, we have always kept in touch and he made the gesture of extending this invitation. Thus, he gave me an opportunity to have direct contact with Bolivia, a country that has suffered much as I have said. It has had a marvelous pre- and post-Colombian history; before and after its independence. They are a truly admirable people. A country whose history awakens solidarity and sympathy. I am very glad for having made this trip.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] This is one of the problems I have now. I cannot be disrupting the activities that the new authorities have to conduct. Every time I move....[changes thought] In addition, I have to act with all the tact that circumstances demand. For every word I say, every question I answer, there will always be those looking for any opportunity, any detail, or reference to past problems. All these things are possible subjects anywhere.

Fortunately, relations between Bolivia and Cuba have progressed extraordinarily in the last few years. We have a strong relation with the government, people, and organizations, but also between the Cuban and Bolivian Armed Forces. They have visited us twice. I talked at length with them. They are very well trained, have top officials.

A very trusting relation has been established in all fields. In medicine—we were aware of the problem with infant mortality—we took the initiative of offering to build an intensive care facility—disregarding whatever government was in power, it was not a political or ideological issue—following our experience with dengue. We wanted to transfer the technology resulting from that experience. Thus, three such facilities were built. One in La Paz, another in Cochabamba, Sucre, and another in....[changes thought] We did not build anymore because we started to have economic difficulties. Countless numbers of doctors have studied in Cuba. Many of these doctors are distinguished medical personalities in Bolivia. Many things like this have happened to help strengthen the ties between both peoples.

Like I told you: Every word one says counts. One has to forget the altitude, and the fact there is less oxygen.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] Well, so far, only climbing a staircase once. [Words indistinct] one has to inhale deeply and continue ahead. Besides, we had no other option. We had no other option [repeats]. [laughs]

[Reporter] Commander, this is a poor country and according to what I have heard on television and radio it is asserted that seven out of every eight Bolivians live in poverty. How do you perceive the challenge the new Bolivian administration faces [words indistinct]?

[Castro] Before answering this question, let me finish answering the first. They asked how was I going to manage the large number of invitations. Robertico has an enormous list and we are trying to see what we can do? Above all, we do not want to abuse their hospitality. There is not only our work and duties in this country but in order to fulfill such a schedule [words indistinct] would be needed. [Words indistinct] We will try.

What was I thinking? I thought that at one of these receptions I would be able to talk with many of the leaders of political organizations. I imagined that in any corner—in other words, I thought I was in Havana—I could talk three, four, five minutes with many of the leaders, but it was impossible. I was studying it. It is also a matter of tact. One is invited [words indistinct] and not to spend the whole season speaking with all the [word indistinct], and fulfilling all the invitations.

I still hope it will take [words indistinct] the least amount of time possible and try to fulfill as much as possible some of the [words indistinct]. This is what we hope right now but we have very little time. One has to be considerate of our hosts. They have much work to do. This is the problem we have, but we hope to solve it dialectically as it was called years ago. [laughs] Dialectically! What we hope is to find a solution. We have been fulfilling it so far. [Words indistinct] contacts at night.

[Words indistinct] I cannot give away the whole strategy and tactics. Tomorrow is another day. Tomorrow we have interviews requested by foreign delegations, in addition to the long list of commitments. [Words indistinct].

[Reporters] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] It also surprised me. You know, in the end, it does not worry me much to announce a trip a day or a month ahead. The summits are announced, such as the one in Madrid. The enemy has enough time to mobilize itself. The Brazil summit, Salvador de Bahia, were announced and how many efforts have been made to hamper and create controversy. In this case, it was not a matter of security. The security concerns here were about the air transportation and the altitude of the airport more than anything else. One really does not like to surprise anyone. [laughs]

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] [Words indistinct] to surprise anyone. We were looking into how to solve the problem. Later, you asked me another question. Could you repeat it, it seems that the lack of oxygen is affecting my memory.

[Reporter] Commander, I was saying: How do you perceive....

[Castro, interrupting] I remember know. The new conditions, right? Poverty, the tasks of the new administration. This is a very difficult question for me to answer. I can say, in general terms, that this is a poor country but it has immense natural resources. It is a poor country but it has a [words indistinct] Do not forget that they exploited the Potosi mines for over four centuries. It was the world's largest silver reserve. For three centuries they [words indistinct]. This country did not experience immigration, did not experience the African slavery that the Caribbean is so familiar with. All that heavy mining work was conducted by the Indians, working 16, 17 hours a day, dying by the thousands, tens of thousands, and even hundreds of thousands. They say that the number of people that died in the mines extracting that mineral is horrendous. They are a very dedicated, hard working, fighting people.

The history of the country shows they were fighters. They were one of the first to rise up against the Spanish authorities in the year 1890. In previous eras, they also conducted a series of uprisings against that brutal exploitation. Its history is thousands of years old, not only from the colonial period on. They have all these characteristics. Hard workers, [words indistinct]. They have 7.2 million inhabitants with a population [words indistinct] with a land surface ten times the size of Cuba. Santa Cruz alone, has more land than Uruguay. There are several provinces; many resources, and much variety in agriculture. They have all kinds of crops such as potatoes that originated in Bolivia. They have cereals of all types, a rich source of protein. It has all kinds of soils and climates to produce food.

Bolivia has important energy resources—oil. New resources continue to appear. It has plenty of gas. Their gas is above their oil. They have to extract gas in order to extract oil later. They have abundant reserves of gas. The country has important hydraulic resources, great rivers.

They lack railroad infrastructure, for example. They lack road infrastructure which is one of the things the country was left more backward in. They are making an effort regarding road construction. They have plans to connect the railroads. They have to connect them. They have railroads in the western region and in the north and south but they are not connected. They need roads. These are costly because there are mountains and certain flood-prone areas. Other means of communications have improved greatly such as telephone.

The energy, agricultural, and mineral resources are immense. The quality of its people; they have many

technicians, many trained people, many specialists. The universities have trained dozens of doctors. These are all the subjective and objective conditions for them to truly eradicate poverty and develop quickly.

They have had the bad luck that the price of some of their export products, such as tin, have suffered large drops as result of the uneven exchange phenomenon. They are making great efforts. They are affected by this type of problems. They have a foreign debt and the problems other countries have but they truly have a desire to work which I have noticed in much of what I have seen so far. I wish Cuba had the natural resources Bolivia has; all the energy and land resources. This is what they are trying to do and I hope they achieve this goal.

They have another harsh, bitter problem: the problem of an outlet to the sea. It is incredible that after more than 100 years, almost one hundred and....[pauses] That war ended in 1879, or 1889.

[Unidentified speaker] "1879."

[Castro] In other words, more than 110 years ago, and no solution has yet been found to that problem that has such a great effect on this country. This is one of their problems. This is a problem of communication from the interior to the outside.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] a series of nations should take [words indistinct]. This should surely [words indistinct].

[Castro] No, the people I have spoken with have not. [laughs] There has been no time for that. We have spoken of other issues in general. Some have asked me the question but we still have not had time for that. We have not made contacts yet. I am sure that there is understanding because what they admire the most is Cuba's resistance, its example against the U.S. hegemony. This is what they admire the most. They know that what we are doing is, precisely, preserving the independence, the Revolution, and the accomplishments attained so far. They admire this very much.

There must be a complete understanding and they are perfectly [words indistinct]. There have not been debates, dialogues, or questions. This is not something that we can answer. But I believe it is important that they understand that there are many things that they themselves must do to be able to solve the difficulties. There has not been a [word indistinct] and I do think there will be. It may come up, but I do not think it will. I have felt that there is any [word indistinct] on that matter.

[Reporter] Commander, to us coming to Bolivia is very special. I imagine you feel the same. Would you like to go to [words indistinct]?

[Castro] One would like to do many things in life, that is understandable. But, I was also saying that I must be very tactful in everything I say and do so that this becomes a truly fruitful trip and (?cures the wounds) that might exist and improve relations. One thing is one's feelings and the many things that one would like to do, many of which I have not been able to do in my life, and another thing is the duty of carrying out a constructive policy, a policy that helps to unite, strengthen, and consolidate the ties that have been developing between these two countries.

You know, the relations are [words indistinct]. There are always sacrifices to be made. Then, the least we can do is avoid things that in some measure could bother part of the population or some sector of the population. I would not like to do anything that might offend someone. Well, these are not new feelings, we went to [words indistinct] when we had our wars. You saw what our conduct was like. Even with those against whom we had fought. At a specific time there was a certain confrontation. [words indistinct] I was saying that I did not have to [word indistinct] anyone.

I believe there are other ways of giving tribute to those who gave their life fighting here, as Che himself said, against imperialism. That is related to Che. Che was here and fought here. He himself said it and he mentioned it in his letter. His fight was against imperialism not against the Bolivian people. His objectives.... [Changes thought] Strategically, he thought of all Latin America but his main goal was the liberation of his own country. Who could question that right. He wanted to fight in his own country. He never had anything against the Bolivian people. He always admired and cherished the Bolivian people because he got to know the Bolivian people. He toured the hemisphere many times on his motorcycle. Anyway, [words indistinct].

I believe that my main goal during this trip now is not to exalt the past or bring back history, [word indistinct], conflicts suffered at a given time, but to work for everything that brings us closer, helps us, unites us, and joins us. When one has the opportunity to meet a people like this, and one knows that there are many opinions, ideas, concepts, and ideologies that are different, but I am aware that I should not do anything that might insult someone or that could offend someone. I believe that is my main duty as a revolutionary and as a politician. I am trying to [words indistinct]. You are asking a question and I have to respond to that question with all [word indistinct].

[Reporter] Commander, in this trip to La Paz you are demonstrating that we are not alone.

[Castro] Yes, we are demonstrating that we are not alone. That is something I said in one of the (?paragraphs). When I heard it.... [Changes thought] Because, I heard a very noble and generous slogan. The slogan said—let me see if I can remember: Fidel, our brother, you are already a Bolivian. [Repeats] [words indistinct] The people were chanting this. The guards, the policemen, and the military were very respectful. Everybody was very respectful.

This respect creates an impression. It creates an impression. We must value that. Can you see anything that contradicts that respect, kindness, and that warmth [words indistinct]?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] I have not be able to [words indistinct]

[Reporter] [words indistinct] [5-second break in reception]

[Castro] ...I saw in the slogans of the people. I was looking at them and at one point I heard someone screaming from downstairs. I believe he was in the group with the journalists. He kept screaming: Viva the revolution; Viva the revolution! I responded that I was a visitor and that I could not shout some slogans. [chuckles] There were some slogans that should not be heard. Naturally, I could not become an agitator. That is not my role.

I believe that all the demonstrations of solidarity and love that they are giving express their appreciation for the values Cuba defends. Values are not simply expressed vocally. I believe that the Bolivian people are actually expressing their appreciation for those values in an extraordinary way. That is much more important than a slogan or a rousing speech.

Furthermore, I, invited here by the government, with the agreement of the group that won the elections, cannot go around issuing political or economic prescriptions, much less trying to tell anyone what to do about anything at all. To me, the fact that the people appreciate the values that Cuba defends—national independence, the Revolution, social justice, dignity vis- a-vis the empire—is worth more than a hundred speeches calling for a struggle or for combat. What the people say, the value they place on these values are worth more than anything, and therefore, I can spare myself the trouble of all the incendiary speeches an (?imprudent) visitor could make. Because I am sure that I would have set nothing on fire with an incendiary speech. Rather, it would have had the opposite effect, and put out that awakened spirit of admiration and respect for the values Cuba defends.

That is what many people here say, and many people everywhere, and they are expressing it to the world. Because it is impossible to hide the [words indistinct] about the way Bolivar's people is treating the Cuban delegation.

[Inaudible questions or comments by reporters]

[Castro] I [words indistinct] public. [laughter] Here, [words indistinct]. Before going to the reception all, absolutely all, of the television networks were giving news about the arrival [words indistinct] and were criticizing, truly criticizing, those statements. Because those statements are not intelligent statements. They are incendiary statements. They make people indignant, and bother people. It bothers people enormously.

I have not made a single statement against anyone here in Bolivia. There is no one who can say that I have tried to tell anyone what they should do or how to do it, nor have I said anything that can [words indistinct], because all that is unnecessary, just as it was unnecessary for that gentleman to say that. Because there were a lot of people, on television, criticizing the statement. (?And, so, what) is accomplished by that? It increases the warmth of the support the Cuban delegation is receiving.

[Reporter] [question or comment indistinct]

[Castro] The wife?

[Reporter] [comment indistinct]

[Castro] She has been in Cuba?

[Reporter] Yes, [words indistinct]....

[Castro, interrupting] And what did the gentleman say?

[Several reporters speak at once. Comments indistinct]

[Castro] This is going to show how incongruent imperialism's philosophy and ideology are. [Words indistinct] inconsistency between what they say and what the world thinks.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] commander [words indistinct] seek out the Cuban delegation to see what it would answer, but it was not necessary, because the Bolivians themselves have answered in a spectacular manner.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] (?interview) with the president-elect [words indistinct].

[Castro] If they [ellas] gave us the news, it must be true. [laughter] And it is a satisfaction, a very great honor.

[Reporters' questions or comments indistinct] [Words indistinct] spirit that you were talking about, that reaction contrary to what (?the person who made the statement expected), [words indistinct]

[Castro] I tell you I no longer know what to do, with a view to [words indistinct]. I cannot hardly stand at the window and repeat the speech for them.

[Reporter or reporters' question or comments indistinct] [laughter]

[Castro] I continue to be delighted, here, with this oxygen I am breathing, and drinking mate and coca leaf teas with no problems. I feel great!

Havana Reports on Castro Activities in La Paz

PA0608135893 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada will take the oath on 6 August as the new president of Bolivia at a ceremony in La Paz in the presence of several Latin American heads of state, among them Cuban President Fidel Castro.

Castro, who arrived in the Bolivian capital on 5 August, held a meeting that evening with outgoing President Jaime Paz Zamora, who had invited him to his successor's inauguration when they spoke in Brazil during the recent Ibero-American summit.

Fidel Castro was cheered by thousands of people on his arrival in Bolivia and by a crowd that gathered at the Plaza de Armas in La Paz, just across from the government building where the Cuban head of state was meeting with Paz Zamora. After the meeting, Castro told reporters: I have visited many places but I have unforgettable memories of Bolivia and its people. I say this sincerely and with true emotion.

The Cuban head of state promised journalists who besieged him that before leaving Bolivia he will hold a news conference. All the international news agencies have agreed that Castro's visit to Bolivia has monopolized the interest of the people, who have taken to the streets to express solidarity with the Cuban cause and demand that the United States end the blockade.

Castro Receives Honorary Title From Bolivian Union Leaders

FL0908124693 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] A whip of justice, a ring of coca leaves, and the title of honorary journalist, together with other gifts, were presented to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro during a moving meeting with Bolivian union leaders. At his hotel, the Cuban president thanked them for the homage rendered to him and his people by representatives of workers and peasants. He talked with them like old friends. The original schedule had only a greeting by Oscar Salas, executive secretary of the Bolivian Workers Union. He expressed his complete solidarity with Cuba. Peasant leader Juan de la Cruz Huilcar stressed the socialist nature of the indigenous peoples.

Afterwards, a long line of leaders from diverse fields participated in the ceremony. In addition to stressing their solidarity with Cuba, they continued the presentation of gifts initiated by Huilcar.

Bolivians Tender 'Warm Welcome' to Castro in La Paz

FL0608141593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Report by Arnaldo Regal]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and of Ministers, will participate in the inauguration of Bolivian President-Elect Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada on 6 August. In the past few hours, the top leader of the Cuban Revolution attended a reception hosted by outgoing Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora in the Government Palace in La Paz.

In statements to the press, Fidel Castro said he has rarely seen people as friendly and courteous as the Bolivians. Similarly, he said he will take with him many unforgettable memories of his first day in Bolivia. Ever since his arrival in the Bolivian capital, the Cuban head of state has been receiving a warm welcome from the Bolivian people and authorities.

For his part, Paz Zamora thanked Castro for having accepted his invitation to visit Bolivia. The Bolivian dignitary said his country acknowledges Cuba's support for Bolivia's struggle for an outlet to the sea and the assistance Cuba offered in the area of health.

Meanwhile, the Bolivian Miners Federation and the National Confederation of Bolivian Peasants both staged rallies on 5 August to show solidarity with the Cuban Revolution. A spokesman for the peasant organization said Castro's visit to Bolivia will infuse valor and vigor into those who are fighting the evils of neoliberalism in Bolivia.

La Paz Declares Fidel Castro 'Guest of Honor'

FL0708183693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, was declared a guest of honor of La Paz, capital of Bolivia. This was according to a decree by its municipal council which was carried out in a solemn ceremony held at Room of Mirrors [salon de espejos] of the city hall [palacio consistorial].

Immediately afterwards, La Paz Mayor Julio Mantilla (Acuellar) gave Fidel the tributes, which include the title of guest of honor and the golden key to the city as well as a (pachamama) a mythical figure that represents the indigenous culture of this people. Mantilla gave President Castro samples of medicines that are produced by the coca leaf, to assert Bolivia's right to produce coca leaves, a purpose that is far from what others with a profit motive do to convert the leaf into drugs.

The 12 councilmen of the mayorship were present at the ceremonial hall, as well as Costa Rican Vice President German Serrano Pinto, who was also decorated, and other guests. A moment that produced visible emotion in Fidel was the delivery of a donation of school materials for Cuban children, who are the victims of the blockade imposed on Cuba, from a group of Bolivian children. [passage omitted]

Castro Meets With New Bolivian President

FL0908021493 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Excerpts] The Bolivian media highlighted the two-hour meeting between Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada. The new Bolivian President Sanchez de Lozada met with the commander in chief in his residence.

[Begin recording] [Sanchez de Lozada] I was very pleased to receive President Fidel Castro in my home and to hold a long and friendly conversation on my first day as president. I have received good advice. I have received good advice from a man who has more than 30 years of experience. [Castro chuckles]

[Castro] I should be a good adviser, but that has never been my profession. However, I have received some good advice from the president. That is how it has been. As he already said, we have had a friendly and very pleasant conversation on different topics. We have talked about Cuba, we have talked about Bolivia, and we have talked about international issues. There is good harmony. I was able to appreciate the president's well-justified reputation as a good-natured man. This characteristic, naturally, contributes to good relations because when I left his house I felt I liked him much more and I have been able to appreciate his work style and I predict that if he applies it in his policies he will be very successful.

I should have mentioned that it has been a very big honor being able to visit him in his home on a day like this where he has had to work a great deal. I should also mention, and I have had to apologize for all the work I have created here and for the inconvenience that I have caused. I have apologized to President Sanchez de Lozada because I must stay a few more hours here in La Paz so I do not offend our many friends that live in this city. I have to keep some commitments. That is why, despite the ceremony having concluded, I am still here. I ask that you excuse me as well.

[Sanchez de Lozada] Thank you. I told him that friends are always welcome and that once Fidel leaves I am going to begin a big campaign to teach the Bolivians who is President, because I think they have forgotten. [Laughs] [Castro chuckles]

[Castro] That is one of his big jokes. [end recording]

In a meeting with professors and students of the San Andres University, Fidel received an honorary doctorate degree, which had been awarded to him in 1987. Fidel also received the distinction of honorary professor of the school of law and political science of San Andres University. The University council also approved a resolution of support to Cuba. The ceremony was another one of the emotive meetings of this visit to Bolivia. [passage omitted]

[Begin Castro recording] One of the things that amazes me the most, out of all the things that have amazed me in these past few days, is to hear many people say to us: Thank you for coming to Bolivia; thank you for visiting Bolivia; thank you for coming to the university to receive the degree. I have heard this repeated many times during this ceremony. It should be us—and I repeat—it should be us and only us, who should be touched and greatly appreciative for the great honor it represents that we have been invited to visit this extraordinary country. [end recording]

Castro on Imperialist Influence in Bolivia

FL0808231993 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Aug 93

["Excerpt" of Speech given by Cuban President Fidel Castro during the ceremony declaring him Guest of Honor of La Paz held at the City Hall of La Paz City on 7 August—recorded]

[Text] We will not be able to survive without integration. Two centuries ago, it might have been just a dream; a fabulous vision of the future. But, today, it is an urgent necessity for our survival. If not, they will conquer us again because there are some that want to discover us again [applause], conquer us again [applause], and exploit us some more.

I was thinking about this before. I calculated all the gold that Spain took from Latin America. Accounting all that gold at the price it has today in dollars I realized that, today, in just one year, the developed countries and the ancient metropolises take more gold from Latin America in a just one year than all the gold that was taken by the Spaniards in 300 centuries [as heard]. [applause]

Between the payment of interest on the debt, the unfair trade, which becomes more unfair everyday, the flight of capital, and the junk [pisuteria] that they sell us....[Changes thought] Because the cultural influence they exercise on all of us is tremendous. It is enough to see the commercials to ask oneself if the world of billions of people can be the world that Europe and the United States tries to present to us. There would be no more natural resources. There would be no more hydrocarbons. Nothing would be left if we follow the life style and systems of the developed capitalist countries as prototypes.

They even deform our culture in many different ways to exploit us. Because they prefer that we buy luxuries rather than food, medicine, or productive systems. They want to convert us to consuming societies and all they can do is turn us in consumed societies. [applause]

Bolivia has experienced all this. Ever since the famous mines of Potosi appeared. How many millions of people do you think have left their lives there? It was the greatest mineral deposit in the history of the world. They exhausted them. But, how did they exploit them? They did so based on the blood and sweat of the people.

That is why we never think or give in to the idea of that being our future. That is why I appreciate the words spoken here today during this ceremony on the need for the struggle and the need for [word indistinct], which I believe should become one of the banners of all our peoples so we can talk [words indistinct] and so can have the right to a brighter future.

We cannot be skeptics, because by coming here and listening to these words and feelings of unity and solidarity one has to be optimistic. There is a very large feeling of brotherhood and solidarity. We have been able

to feel it here during our stay being many miles away from Cuba. We have heard many times, probably thousands of times, that Cuba is not alone. That represents and says a lot. It says a lot to imperialism.

I believe that someone came here pouting about the fact that I was invited. He said that it was contradictory with I do not know what. And one does not know what it contradicts because even they do not know. [applause] The only real incompatible thing is our future and the plans of imperialism. They, more than anyone, should understand that there are things that are incompatible. Things that are unfair and immoral. And one of those things is its criminal blockade. What is incompatible is to speak of liberties and rights and impose a brutal blockade on a small country sabotaging all its efforts of work, development, and its economy.

It was touching to see some Bolivian children from La Paz, a country that is considered among the poorest of Latin America, give us materials for the children of Cuba. How much does this weigh? Probably, 1 or 2 kg. But, how much does this weigh morally? Millions of tons. [applause]

Castro on Impact of Trip to Bolivia, Reception

FL0608172293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1253 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Remarks by Cuban President Fidel Castro to Cuban reporters in La Paz, Bolivia on 5 August—recorded]

[Text] A few hours after arriving, I realized that if I had not traveled to Bolivia it would have been an act of cruelty against who knows how many people. It would have been an act of thoughtlessness against not only the Bolivian people, but the authorities, organizations, and everyone else because ever since the Sao Paulo Forum they have been insisting that I come. Some of the Bolivians who were there, including some ministers and party representatives, had strongly insisted that I make the trip, but I could not have imagined the level of expectation that was created because of this trip. It is true that everyone [word indistinct] of the trip. Having direct contact is different from just having someone tell you something. When one has direct contact, as I have had today with Bolivia, with the Bolivian authorities, both civilian and military, and with the people everywhere, one realizes that not to have made the trip would have been a cruel act. I repeat, it would have been a thoughtless act toward these people and this country.

We know Bolivia's entire history, just as we know the history of many countries in the world, as long-suffering and as combative as this one. If by any reason they wanted our presence here, I realized that not to come would have been a big mistake, not for the benefits, prestige, friendship that this trip could represent to Cuba, but because it would have caused great frustration and disillusion to the Bolivian people.

As a matter of fact, judging by what I have seen, I reached that conclusion after being here a few hours. To begin with, no one knew our route, or the time or anything. There were many people along our path, especially here in the hotel. We entered the hotel. It took a great effort to be able to enter the hotel. It seemed like a tidal wave of people. There was no way to control the crowd. The guards were trying to contain the crowd. One suffers when you see the efforts of the people and when you see the guards and the policemen trying to maintain order and being unable to do so. One does not want to give the impression of disorder, or of creating disorder, but it seemed like a tidal wave, like one of those waves that hits the coast.

We came up to the floor where we are. I do not even know what floor it is. I know it is one of the top floors. There, we looked through some small windows and saw many people outside carrying Cuban flags, signs, banners. There was an enormous one that must have been at least 20 meters long and it looked like a painting. What do you call those? It was painted on cloth. It was a painting approximately 20 meters long. It was a sign that was very wide and very long. Those people kept passing by out there and we did not know what to do. Finally, a comrade suggested that we get closer to the crowd because up where we were you could not see anything. So they took us to a small room on the first floor. They took me to an office on the first floor and they opened one of the windows and I was able to look out. At that moment I was able to calculate that there were approximately 10,000 people there.

Castro Describes Health as 'Perfect'

FL0608173993 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1603 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro stated on 6 August that the welcome he is receiving in Bolivia is another demonstration that Cuba is not alone in the defense of its sovereignty in the face of U.S. pressures.

In a meeting with Cuban reporters at the inaugural ceremony of new Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, Fidel Castro also said the U.S. representative's attempt to prevent Castro's presence in Bolivia was stupid [una torpeza]. The leader of the Cuban Revolution, who said he was feeling in perfect health despite the altitude of La Paz, which is almost 4,000 meters above sea level, described the popular welcome as an expression of appreciation of the values that Cuba defends.

With a backdrop of slogans in favor of the Cuban Revolution and against the U.S. economic blockade shouted by groups of Bolivians, who remained outside his hotel all night, Castro added that it would have been inconsiderate of him not to have accepted the invitation to travel to Bolivia.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Envoy's 'Arrogance'

FL0608212293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Jose Armas commentary]

[Text] President Fidel Castro's visit to Bolivia to attend the Bolivian presidential inauguration this afternoon seems to have really bothered Washington's envoy, Mr. Bruce Babbitt. This person has actually said that Fidel's presence there is inconsistent with a festival of democracy.

First of all, let us look at Mr. Babbitt's arrogance, and how offensive it is for both the Bolivian people and their authorities. Who is this individual to cast doubt on who an outgoing president of another country should or should not invite to a presidential inauguration? If Mr. Babbitt has read Sigmund Freud—and I doubt that he has—he will realize that he was betrayed by his subconscious, because essentially, what he has done is treat Bolivia like an exclusive U.S. fief, and its authorities like lackeys who must obediently behave to avoid irritating Washington.

However, Mr. Babbitt's annoyance is also rooted in other factors, primarily the emotional, affectionate, friendly, and warm welcome that the Bolivian people tendered to Comrade Fidel. In fact, we have read that the Bolivian people have coined an unforgettable slogan, namely: Fidel, our brother, you are now a Bolivian. That is what deeply wounded Mr. Babbitt. In other words, while the superdemocrats are ignored, those who they describe as undemocratic or antidemocratic are elevated by the people's affection. Is that not strange?

As for the democracy that Mr. Babbitt is talking about, in words so hackneyed as to be rancid, we wish to remind him of a single quotation: In the United States there is a relatively small governing class, and the man in the street has very little to say about government matters, while the gap between private wealth and public poverty in U.S. society grows ever wider. That was not said by a communist, a Marxist, or a socialist. That perfect picture of U.S. plutocracy was drawn, with words of course, by U.S. writer (Louis Laughin). We could cite many other reasons, but they are not necessary. The illustrous democrat, Mr. Babbitt, knows them as well, or better, than many others.

It is more graceful to conclude by saying: Bolivians, brothers, You are now Cubans.

Castro Terms U.S. New World Order 'Biggest Hypocrisy'

PA0708194793 Paris AFP in Spanish 1810 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] La Paz, 7 Aug (AFP)—Cuban President Fidel Castro, in his first formal speech since he arrived in La Paz two days ago, termed on 7 August the new international order led by the United States as "the biggest hypocrisy" and came out in favor of a united Latin America, if it wants to "survive."

The occasion was the ceremony in which the mayor of La Paz declared him an "illustrious guest."

Castro arrived in la Paz on 5 August to participate in the inauguration of new Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, who took office on 6 August.

The Cuban leader said he had tried to explain the reasons for the constant demonstrations of support and enthusiasm received since he arrived and "their merits. I have found a single word: dignity. I think the Bolivians appreciate the dignity with which our revolution has been carried out and with which our sovereignty and independence is defended."

He recalled that Cuba is "the only country blocked by the most powerful empire that ever existed in the world," referring to the 30-year economic blockade maintained by the United States.

"But we have withstood a power before which many peoples and governments kneel," he said.

Referring to the United States, Castro used the traditional expression of "Yankee imperialism," although he noted: "I had intended not to use such strong words, but since it is known historically as such...."

Castro used stronger terms regarding the so-called "new world order" promoted by the United States and the western powers.

"They want to dictate orders and impose their views throughout the world," he said. As an example he cited the humanitarian operation in Somalia "where today they are taking food at gun point to the people they starved to death."

"We never witnessed such big hypocrisy," he remarked.

If Latin American peoples and nations want to "survive" at this crossroads of the world, they have one path left: To unite. A united Latin America, without borders, "respecting the characteristics of each country, because individual characteristics exist in each country."

According to Castro, economic attempts are being made to turn Latin American countries into "consumer societies," but in reality the danger lies in their becoming "consumed societies."

Castro concluded by expressing support of the Bolivian centennial-long claim to recover an outlet to the sea, which it lost in the 1879 war with Chile. He said that "the world cannot continue to permit Bolivia to remain landlocked.'

"If only we could give them a piece of our sea," he remarked, amidst the applause of the large crowd.

Foreign Minister Robaina Suspends Trip to Chile

PA0708174293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1538 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Santiago, 7 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina has suspended indefinitely his private visit to Chile scheduled for next week, authorities reported on 7 August.

Robaina, who attended the swearing-in ceremony of President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada in Bolivia, had stated his intention to visit Chile before traveling to Paraguay to attend the swearing-in ceremony for President-elect Juan Carlos Wasmosy.

Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma said this week "there is no problem with Robaina's visit to Chile." Silva said he is willing to hold a private meeting with Robaina even though the countries maintain no diplomatic relations.

The military government that overthrew President Salvador Allende on 11 September 1973 broke diplomatic relations with Cuba three days later.

Chilean President Patricio Aylwin and Cuban President Fidel Castro resumed consular relations in Guadalajara, Mexico, on 19 July 1991 during the First Ibero-American Summit.

Fidel Castro To Meet With Cesar Gaviria in Cartagena

FL0908125693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 9 Aug 93

["Last minute" report by PRENSA LATINA correspondent Roberto Gili]

[Text] It has been officially reported in La Paz that Cuban President Fidel Castro will arrive tonight to Cartagena, Colombia, for a two-day private visit to continue the talks begun in La Paz with Colombian President Cesar Gaviria. A communique from the Cuban presidency reports that Castro will stop in Cartagena, located 1,300 km north of Bogota, during his return trip to Havana. During his stay in Cartagena, Castro will continue the talks begun with Gaviria in La Paz where both attended the swearing-in ceremony of new Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada.

Solchaga Says Cuba 'Must Operate in Market Terms'

LD0508175493 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Carlos Solchaga, the Socialist group's spokesman, believes that the ministerial changes in Cuba indicate economic liberalization. A few days ago, Solchaga went to the island on the instructions of Felipe Gonzalez, after Fidel Castro had authorized the circulation of the dollar. Today, he said in the congress that Cuba must operate in market terms to recover the living standards that it has lost in recent months.

Raul Castro Outlines Armed Forces Reduction Goals

PA0608230793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1906 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Havana, 6 Aug (EFE)—The reduction to a minimum indispensable level of Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] noncombat units and institutions is continuing on the island, Revolutionary Armed Forces Minister Raul Castro has said.

Today, Friday, 6 August, the official newspaper GRANMA published the text of the speech by the number two man in the Cuban political hierarchy, delivered during a ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of the Youth Labor Army [EJT].

Raul Castro noted that efforts are continuing "to maximize the efficient use of resources earmarked for defense." A few months ago, in an interview with the Mexican newspaper El SOL, he announced that Cuba's Army was too big and costly given the country's economic development.

"We are achieving this goal," he added, "by conserving all kinds of resources, basically fuel and lubricants, and by reducing the use of weapons and equipment. As we increase its vitality, we are modernizing and preserving it to the maximum extent possible."

He also indicated that another important project will be the Armed Forces' production of food for its own consumption, "in order to guarantee within a reasonably short period of time that the FAR will be able to produce basic foods for its own needs." Raul Castro reiterated a phrase uttered during a speech several months ago: "Beans are as necessary or more important than cannons."

In another part of his speech, he said that "we have decided to gradually and substantially increase the number of EJT soldiers." He added the EJT "is an active part of the FAR's primary reserves."

Minister: Santiago Electricity Shortfall To Continue

FL0708024293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Report by Santiago de Cuba correspondent Carlos Sanario Marrero]

[Text] Friends, Basic Industry Minister Marcos Lage [name as heard] has announced at a meeting with government authorities and enterprises in Santiago de Cuba Province that the difficulties in supplying electricity that Cuba is having nationwide are caused by a lack of fuel at power plants. To this is joined the

operational status of the machines that run on Cuban crude oil, which, because it is highly viscid, causes mechanical failures.

The energy-sector personnel stressed that efforts are being made so the situation can be alleviated to some extent over the next few days—although service will continue to be affected throughout the entire month of August.

Santiago de Cuba Province is experiencing power outages of between 15 and 18 hours' duration, which is affecting tourism. This has made it necessary to stop certain production activities entirely. In order to guarantee repairs at sugar industry-related plants, predawn shifts have been set up, as they have for the irrigation and pumping of water in agriculture.

In his exchange with the managing authorities of Santiago de Cuba Province's government and main enterprises, Marcos Lage [name as heard], minister of Basic Industry, called for the organization and intelligence that must be maintained in order to continue developing all spheres of national life.

So take the appropriate measures, because the power outages are going to continue.

Workers Federation Leader Denies Castro To Leave Government

PA0708044593 Paris AFP in Spanish 0236 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 5 Aug (AFP)—Joaquin Bernal, secretary of International Relations of the Cuban Workers Federation (CTC), denied on 5 August that Fidel Castro, president of his country, is leaving the government shortly, as U.S. political sources have asserted.

Bernal, who is visiting Honduras, implicitly referred to U.S. Democratic Party Congressman Robert Menendez's program proposal. On 4 August Menendez presented a bill for the Act to Assist Cuba's Freedom and Independence, considering that "Castro's fall is imminent."

The fact that Cuba is implementing measures to adapt the country's economy to the existent situation does not mean that Castro will leave power, the Cuban leader stressed.

"The Cuban Government, the Communist Party, unions, and all of the country's sectors are making a sacrifice, and as long as Fidel Castro is mentally and physically able, we know he will make the sacrifice with us," Bernal added.

In his visit to Tegucigalpa—the first by a Cuban union leader to Honduras—which will end 6 August, Bernal met with United Federation of Honduran Workers (FUTH) leaders and attended the ceremony where Honduran President Rafael Callejas gave FUTH members the organization's documents as a legal entity. The ceremony was held at the presidential house 4 August.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Equatorial Guinea

FL0608153093 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] At the end of the working sessions of the first joint commission for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation on 5 August, Cuba and Equatorial Guinea agreed to broaden their bilateral cooperation.

A document which outlines the basis for achieving this goal was signed at the Foreign Trade Ministry by Silvestre Siale Bileka, prime minister of that African country, and Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers.

Army To Discharge 'Hundreds' To Work in Other Sectors

FL0708184693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] In the next few days, hundreds of sergeants and soldiers of the Central Army will be discharged from active military duty to form part of the country's economic, political, and social work force with the satisfaction of a task fulfilled. Among the youths to be discharged from the Central Army are more than 800 who were soldiers for 12 months and who in September will begin their university careers that were awarded to them last year. In that sense, many will benefit from the Minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces' order No. 18 to be able to study in military preuniversty schools for the purpose of fulfilling their cultural knowledge and to later go on to higher education centers.

Elementary teachers specialized in physical education and mid-level technicians in different areas will also form part of the group of Central Army combatants to be discharged this month.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

New LIAT Consortium To Inject EC $35 Million

FL0608002193 Bridgetown CANA in English 2106 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Report by Hallam Hope]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Aug 5, CANA—The Caribbean consortium taking over government-owned airline LIAT next month, plans to inject EC35 million dollars (one EC dollar = 37 cents U.S.) into the cash-strapped company and make staff training and involvement a priority, a senior official said here Thursday. Stephen Hobson, chairman of Caribbean Aviation Enterprises (CAE), said the next 18 months should lead

to a turnaround in viability, management, and quality of service of the airline, under CAE's direction.

The businessman told a service club meeting here EC7.5 million dollars would be injected into the airline by the end of October, more than 13 million by December 31, and a total of 35 million by the end of the next financial year—October 31, 1994.

CAE has been chosen by Caribbean governments under a privatisation plan which would see the consortium assume control next month. British Airways will have a management role in the airline, whose final purchase accord is subject to legal agreements signed on route rights for LIAT.

Hobson said staff would have a seat on the board of directors, an offer of shares, and their training and quality of work would be pivotal to the creation of a new culture of caring and concern.

While Antigua would remain the airline's headquarters, the CAE chairman said there would be a greater role for Barbados as a hub of activity and some investment would have to be made. He did not elaborate, but maintenance was an area identified for upgrading.

Hobson said in order to ensure savings, nightly maintenance would be undertaken at the main hubs, with Antigua, Barbados, and to a lesser extent, St. Lucia favoured.

"We are confident we can turn the airline around. It is not necessarily going to be an easy task," said the CAE chairman. "We hope to see significant changes for the better in the next 18 months," he remarked.

Hobson said the new airline's management would be seeking the assistance of governments to speed up the processing of passengers on arrival, launch a new image in coming months, and aim to provide business travellers with better quality of service. He added introduction of some discounted fares was coming, but contended there would be no major reductions in fares.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has confirmed an offer of 15 million EC dollars in financing, and Hobson said the bank was committed to a long-term project for the airline which would not affect funding of other regional programmes.

Dominican Republic

Doctors Say President Will Be Able To Resume Duties

PA0608033893 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2311 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Santo Domingo, 5 Aug (DPA)—The doctors who operated on octogenarian Joaquin Balaguer, president of the Dominican Republic, assert that he is recovering satisfactorily and will be able to reassume his duties.

It was officially reported in Santo Domingo that Balaguer was operated on at a hospital in Florida to remove blood clots from his legs and replace arteries in his feet. Reports released in the Dominican capital state that the surgery took six hours and that the 86-year-old president withstood it satisfactorily. It was reported that he will remain in the hospital for several days, but it was not said when he will be released. It was foreseen that he could leave the Jackson Memorial Hospital of Miami sometime next week.

Haiti

Deputy Alleges Massacre Planned for 29 to 30 Oct

FL0508212493 Port-au-Prince Radio Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Saint-Marc Deputy Evans Picault denounced a plot, being prepared by about 40 men, against the population of Saint-Marc and its surroundings. The deputy said that this plot is scheduled to be carried out on 29 and 30 October during the popular celebrations that will probably mark the return of President Aristide. According to this same deputy, 12 people have already been killed by these men.

[Begin recording in Creole] The situation that is going on to find ways of solving the crisis prompt certain men to prepare many things in Saint-Marc and the surrounding areas. These men have done various things to arm and to goad the peasants to fight one another in land conflicts. They thereby are able to hide their actions. They also support groups of people to kill other people. In Saint-Marc they hold meetings in specific areas about which I know. Former high-ranking members of the military barracks in Saint-Marc who were transferred continue to return to the city, and are preparing the slaughter for 29 and 30 October.

According to information that I gathered from the military in the area who are in hiding, [word indistinct] there is a group of 40 gangsters in Pont Sonde as well, killers led by (Walhem) Antoine and Nicolas (Damelus), former military, armed with fire guns [as heard], sticks, and machetes. These men have been going around since the crisis began, persecuting activists and denouncing others, accusing them of spreading Aristide leaflets, forcing people into hiding, causing them to fear arrest. Now, the situation has intensified. During June and July, they killed at least 12 people and dumped their bodies in the Artibonite river. [end recording]

The possibility of a confrontation is not to be disregarded as the inhabitants of the region are now on the defensive, arguing that no one will prevent them from celebrating and demonstrating during the return of President Aristide. [passage omitted] It should be noted that the inhabitants do not wish to use violence to thwart the

acts of those 40 men, thereby satisfying a call from the presidential commission, asking them to avoid violence and vengeance.

Demonstrators Censure ACP, Church Council Members

FL0508203393 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] On 4 August, in Gonaives, a demonstration was held, censuring the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion [ACP]. About 60 youths gathered in the area surrounding Parc Vincent, a soccer stadium, to protest the statements of Senator Thomas Eddy Dupiton who threatened to appeal to the 18 January senators for ratification of the prime minister. The following is an excerpt from the report of our correspondent Duckene Seramy from Gonaives.

[Begin recording in Creole] On 3 August at 0300 PM, about 60 youths took to the streets to demonstrate. They carried placards that read, "People who have completed their secondary studies cannot get jobs, while hooligans are enjoying the pleasures of driving double-cabin vehicles; 18 January parliamentarians are pushed aside. Eddy Dupiton and [Franck] Leonard [the most senior senator, elected provisional president of the Senate to hold elections within this institution], stop stalling for time; the people understand the game you are trying to play."

The demonstrators denounced the behavior of Haitian Episcopal Conference members such as [Monsignor Francois Wholf] Ligonde, [Msgr. Francois] Gayo, [Msgr.] Emmanuel Constant, and so on, who have not taken a stand. [end recording]

Deputy Urges Senators To Consider People's Interests

FL0508161193 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Statement by Grand'Anse Deputy Geffrard Etienne; time and place not given—recorded, in Creole]

[Text] The country has been entangled for 23 months. The Haitian people in the nine geographic departments of the country are suffering. They are living through extreme poverty and unemployment, especially the people of Grand'Anse Department following the wreck of the Neptune boat (?that caused) over 300 children to become fatherless and motherless. It is not the moment for senators—whether members of the Alliance [for Parliamentary Cohesion, ACP] or of the Constitutionalist [Anticorruption Bloc]—to squabble over posts in the Senate of the Republic. What is important today is the normalization of the Senate, the ratification of the prime minister whom President Aristide will send before the Parliament, and the lifting of the embargo that hurts everybody in the country. What is so difficult for our senators? Are they expecting foreigners to normalize the Senate for them?

Gentlemen, this situation, these things are not a credit to the honor or the dignity of the country. Even though [words indistinct] not represent anything, (?due to) their obligations toward those who voted for them, the people are sad to see that Constitutionalist Bloc and ACP senators are getting paid each month and are driving nice cars, regardless of the suffering. I call on our brothers in the Senate to set aside their personal interests and the interests of their political parties so as to resolve the crisis in the Senate to the advantage of the people who are suffering and who can no longer keep on suffering. Thank you.

Electricity Workers Protest Foreign Generation

FL0608002093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1952 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Aug 5, CANA—Workers of the state-owned Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC) staged two demonstrations on Thursday to protest a government plan to form a new company with foreign participation to handle the generation of electricity. The government, attempting to restructure the financially-strapped state corporation, said earlier this week 49 percent of the new power company would be held by foreign interests. Officials said the decision was inspired by the need to meet the country's growing demand for electricity up to the year 2010.

TTEC workers who were being mobilised for protest action over the past two months by the Oilfields Workers Trade Union (OWTU), staged their first demonstration around the financial complex, which houses several government offices including the prime minister's and the Ministry of Finance.

Some 80 bright yellow trucks and vans with workers chanting anti-government slogans, honked their horns consistently as they went around the downtown Port of Spain complex several times. Another protest demonstration was held around midday at TTEC's headquarters in one of Port of Spain's busiest areas. TTEC trucks lined several nearby streets, while the workers marched on the pavement outside the power company's headquarters, chanting and holding burning black candles which, according to them, signified black out days to come.

"We will be calling on the government to reverse their decision to privatise TTEC," OWTU's labour relations officer Alva Allen told CANA. "We will also be pointing out ways and means by which TTEC make that 1,152-megawatt capacity that they have, that they could make it available (to the country) rather than having to go and enter into a partnership with somebody else to bring in additional plants.

He added: "There's absolutely no need to expand the generation capacity of TTEC... you have 1,152-megawatt capacity. We are saying that that must be made available to the country... By pursuing a vigorous maintenance programme, because they have the machinery to provide the power."

OWTU is expected to finalise its proposal to the commission on Friday [6 August] on how the expansion of the generation capacity can be done locally.

MRN, CONACOM Discuss Contacts With Malval

FL0508222093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Passages in italics in Creole]

[Text] The formation of the next government is on today's agenda in the talks between prospective Prime Minister Robert Malval and President Aristide in Washington. Malval is in Washington for talks with President Aristide. They will analyze among other things, latest developments in the Haitian situation. Regarding the formation of the next government, the largest Haitian political organizations assert that they have not been officially contacted by the prospective prime minister.

The National Reconstruction Movement, MRN, leader Rene Theodore indicated that he had a telephone conversation with Malval, and intends to speak with the prospective prime minister this week in Port-au-Prince. It should be noted that MRN is deciding whether to participate in the next government, and points out that the government's program should be based on finding the means to solve the crisis, reinforcing democracy in Haiti, and reboosting the national economy. They must all be part of the government plan, according to MRN.

The National Congress of Democratic Movements, CONACOM, asserts that it had been officially contacted within the framework of the new government team. CONACOM representative Jean-Claude Bajeux explains:

[Begin recording] [Bajeux] Was there an official contact between the prime minister and CONACOM? Certainly there has been an official contact. Was there an answer from CONACOM? Certainly, there has been an answer from CONACOM. since CONACOM will never say no if a president such as Aristide asks it to do some work, since we are here to make democracy move forward.

[Correspondent Rothschild Francois] *Mr. Bajeux, we would like to know: You say official contacts were made between Mr. Malval and CONACOM. Has Malval already given you a profile of his government?*

[Bajeux] *The government's program has already been outlined in the little brochure that you know about, called, "For A New Start." In any case, it is a program that has already been outlined in the New York accords. For instance, you have a whole list of laws that must be voted in in order to ensure the reform of some very important institutions for the development of democracy. The institutions most concerned by reform include the Department of Justice, the Haitian Army, the penitentiary system. It is already a great program. Senators and deputies will have to vote some laws to end the conflict that has been going on for months so that they can all work together on those projects to make things progress. The country cannot continue as it is. Concrete things must be done. Everyone must work together on certain precise issues.* [end recording]

Bajeux refrained from confirming or denying the information rumored in Port-au-Prince that Victor Benoit may be appointed minister of national education within the Malval government.

Firmin Denies Accusation, Mondestin Reveals Maneuvers

FL0508205993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Questioned about Senator Sansaric's accusations, Sen. Firmin Jean-Louis refused to comment. He simply indicated that there were some provocative maneuvers set up by the Alliance to delay Senate normalization. Sen. Rony Mondestin, on the other hand, unveiled what he calls the hidden motives of the Alliance:

[Begin recording in Creole] Sen. Judnel Jean is not visible. I have never heard that his wife, who lives with him, has filed a complaint with the police department that the senator disappeared. The very first people to be concerned would be his relatives. None of them filed such a complaint.

It is obvious that Sen. Sansaric himself decided to go to look for the senator. I think it is quite normal for Sen. Sansaric to help the senator in whatever sense he wishes to help him, but not in the spirit of an option hunter [chasseur de prime].

I believe that a great diversion is taking place in the case of Sen. Judnel Jean in order to divert the people's attention from a key point. All the maneuvers are to avoid holding elections for the new Senate office; they want to hide the real problem. It is an operation conducted by a minority of people, people who do not want to free up the country, who wish to block the choice of Malval and to present Serge Gilles, imposing him on President Aristide. [end recording]

When then will the new Senate office be held? The wait threatens to be long.

U.S. Ambassador Statements Termed 'Interventionist Aims'

PA0608183893 Paris AFP in Spanish 1552 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Aug (AFP)—The daily LA JORNADA on 6 August asked the Mexican Government to withdraw the approval granted to U.S. Ambassador to Mexico James Jones, who made statements in Washington with "interventionist aims."

"To accept the presence of an ambassador who has such attitudes, besides being harmful to national dignity, would be dangerous to our sovereignty, our territorial integrity, and our national security," the daily stated in its editorial entitled: "Jones, Unacceptable for Mexico."

The daily added that when Jones appeared before the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he promised to oversee the conditions of Mexican prison inmates and to pressure the Mexican Government "at the highest levels" to enforce justice in the Camarena case (a U.S. narcotics agent murdered in Mexico in 1985).

The daily said that Jones also promised to promote the human rights issue in Mexico at the OAS and UN debates, to intervene in the electoral process, and to "work with the Mexican Government to carry out democratic reforms." "To sum it up, Jones promised to act more as a proconsul than as a professional diplomatic representative," the daily pointed out.

LA JORNADA asked Mexico to withdraw its approval of Jones and to request the U.S. authorities to appoint "a person who respects our laws."

Jones' statements were also commented on by Radio Red, a radio station directed by Enrique Munoz. Munoz said: "it is not a matter of nationalism, which is not the case, but of talking about the protection of human rights in Mexico, particularly when it comes from a foreigner. One would imagine that in his country everything is nice and rosy."

The daily added: "If we talk about the human rights of minorities in the United States, there is much to be said."

Jones was appointed to the U.S. Embassy by President Bill Clinton to replace John Dimitri Negroponte, who arrived in Mexico in 1989. Negroponte's appointment also raised objections at that time by various Mexican political forces that accused him of having encouraged the Nicaraguan "contras."

Tax Agreement Signed With Switzerland

PA0808024893 Mexico City XEQ Canal 9 Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Report by Rita Ganen]

[Text] Mexico and Switzerland have signed an agreement to avoid double taxation and prevent income tax evasion. The document was signed by Finance Secretary Pedro Aspe Armella and Swiss Ambassador in Mexico Gerard Fonjallaz.

It was announced that in the short term, this agreement will allow the elimination of fiscal obstacles to the free flow of capital and goods and services between both countries. In addition, it would contribute to more Swiss investment in Mexico.

According to Aspe, the advantages offered by the agreement constitute a decisive step in strengthening bilateral relations.

[Begin recording] This instrument will allow us to interpret as well as harmonize tax guidelines and thus confer more protection and judicial assurances to trade and financial operations between Mexican and Swiss residents. [end recording]

Mr. Aspe said that these agreements are part of the measures Mexico has implemented to establish a more competitive fiscal system at an international level.

The Swiss ambassador said that last year Mexico was the first recipient of Swiss exports in Latin America.

Guatemala

Government Recognizes Belize Statehood for 'Time Being'

PA0808153593 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] On 6 August, President Ramiro De Leon Carpio confirmed that for the time being Guatemala is adhering to the international community's recognition of Belize's independence. He reiterated that the territorial conflict remains and that there is no definite policy regarding this issue. In any event, the president said, it may be necessary to consult the people.

[Begin recording] [De Leon] The foreign minister has said on certain occasions, especially over the past few days, that the president of the Republic has decided to establish a council to examine the situation.

But I have clearly said that two situations exist: one is the international community's, including Guatemala's, recognition of the state of Belize due to certain agreements and the other is the territorial conflict, regarding which there is nothing definite as yet. When that time comes, the president will disclose his international policy.

The territorial conflict is pending and, moreover, the temporary part of the political constitution permits just this type of negotiations. As constitutionalists, we did this to make it possible for the president of the Republic and the executive branch to conduct such negotiations. But according to the Constitution, when a definitive solution regarding the territorial conflict is achieved a referendum must be held.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[De Leon] In my opinion, in due time the president of the Republic, in accordance with the powers bestowed on him by the Constitution, will establish an international policy. Belize, of course, will be part of that policy. [end recording]

Statistics Institute Reports Jul Inflation Increase

PA0508163893 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 3 Aug 93 p 62

[Text] Accumulated inflation on 31 July was 8.45 percent, 2.52 percentage points more than June's 5.93 percent, and 0.98 points more than during the same period in 1992, according to information provided by the National Statistics Institute [INE].

According to the INE, vegetables continue to affect the inflation index and, as in June, tomatoes, onions, black beans, bar soap, chicken eggs, sweet bread, and sugar head the list of products whose percentage points fluctuated over the past month.

The INE has pointed out that with July's inflation results it is the second time this year that inflation has increased by two points.

May's accumulated inflation rate was 3.43 percent, 0.61 percentage points more than April's. In June the inflation index increased by 2.52 percent, raising inflation to 5.93 percent. In July it increased another 2.52 points.

According to the INE, the political crisis in May had a serious impact on inflation, with the result that in next two months accumulated inflation increased more than it did during the first five months of the year, which INE considers a dramatic change.

Nicaragua

United Nations, OAS Invited To Verify Military Inventories

PA0908042093 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government, headed by Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, has invited UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and OAS Secretary General Clemente Joao Baena Soares to be present or send their respective delegates to witness the delivery of the arms inventory to be presented by the Nicaraguan Army.

The inventory will be presented to the Nicaraguan Government the last week of August, according to Foreign Ministry spokesman David Silva, who also referred to the government's formal invitation to the distinguished international officials.

[Begin Silva recording] The Government of Nicaragua has invited UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and OAS Secretary General Clemente Joao Baena Soares to send observation missions to verify the arms inventory that the Nicaraguan Army conducts periodically and which will be conducted this year during the last week of August. This invitation is evidence of our clear policy on military issues and a measure that seeks to contribute promoting trust in the region.

The Nicaraguan Government has a deep commitment to the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America. To that effect, it feels that the progress made in the regional democratization and pacification should lead to a strong and ample process of restriction of weapons and troops with views to establishing a reasonable balance of forces in the region.

Keeping with this spirit, it has been conducting several initiatives at the local level, which have led to a substantial reduction in the Army as well as the elimination of weapons and military budget. In the field of foreign policy and within the framework of the Central American summit, and particularly through the Commission of Central American Security, the Government of Nicaragua has promoted several initiatives that seek to reduce as much as possible the number of troops and security as well as the amount of weapons in the region.

In an effort to periodically verify the military inventory and promote a clear policy in fulfilling the commitment

to the demilitarization of Central America, the Government of Nicaragua delivered to the UN and OAS secretaries general, respectively, on two previous occasions, the inventories of military equipment, weapons, and installations; a census of Armed Forces and security personnel; as well as a report on the transfer of [word indistinct]. [end recording]

Lacayo on Subordinating the Armed Forces

PA0608232693 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Tonight we will discuss Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo's speech at the seminar "The Armed Forces' New Role in Nicaragua," which was sponsored by the National Institute for Democracy. Lacayo expressed views concerning the subordination of the military to civilian authority and he outlined the progress that has been made in this regard. Among the first ideas he expressed was that to guarantee civilian control over the military, the military should be considered a subsystem within the great democratic system that is taking shape in Nicaragua.

"We must take note and acknowledge that this control system is realy a subsystem within a broader system, that of the democratic system; therefore, the subsystem of civilian control over the Armed Forces should be established gradually and concurrently with other subsystems of that great democratic system.

"In Nicaragua, I must say quite sincerely, we all are learning about democracy. Our entire system—the executive branch itself, the National Assembly, the judicial branch, all of civilian society—has not experienced a democratic system with the severity that we are facing now. The news media, political parties, elected and nonelected authorities, we all must gradually learn and shape these subsystems and gradually generate and strengthen the overall framework, which is democracy.

"To this end, we must acknowledge that the military is distrustful of relinquishing the power they derive from their strength, gradually surrendering it to civilians, and thus becoming subordinate to civilian authority. This distrust will only diminish as the military gains confidence in the prevalence of law, de jure state, and democracy for all."

Another of the ideas Lacayo expressed was that we must accept the system of civilians exerting control over the Armed Forces and that it should be enforced gradually; thus, according to the presidency minister, Nicaragua could dismiss the possibility of a military coup, as happened during the democratic transition processes in Spain and Argentina which, fortunately, were controlled.

"The creation of this control system should strictly adhere to the concept of gradualness in view of Spain's and Argentina's experiences. We must go from the broad issue to details, from the general to the specific; in other words, we must not forget that this is a process. I am very pleased to hear Don Luis [not further identified], my neighbor here at the table, talk about what is going on in Argentina today; that is, 10 years after the return of democracy in Argentina. It is as if Nicaraguans were speaking in the year 2000. In other words, it is as if the Nicaraguan people were speaking in the year 2000, 10 years after the 1990 elections; yet we are only in 1993.

"When Dr. Laborda, president of the Spanish Senate, came to Nicaragua, he said Spain was in the process of creating laws involving the military's subordination to civilians. This process had been going on for 14 years and it is still in progress. Just this year, when I visited Madrid in April, the defense minister told me, with satisfaction, that they had recently passed a new law that was yet another step toward this goal. The Moncloa Pacts were left behind 13 or 14 years ago.

"I believe we must now implement the concept of gradualness. If certain achievements can be accomplished in 1993 and others in 1994 and still others in 1995, we might be able to conclude it by 2000, which is where the Argentinians are right now, or in 2003, which is where the Spaniards are right now with regard to the year in which they started. We can get to the stage where they are now or make even more progress than them."

The presidency minister also discussed the Army's role during the Esteli incidents. He said that the Army proved at that moment that it had the resolve to fulfill its constitutional mandate, which has been reinforced by a presidential mandate that guarantees support for the police to ensure national security.

"I believe the time has come to show our support through the attitude we adopt. To fail to support the police, or worse, to criticize the police for other reasons would, in my opinion, clearly prove that when the Army was criticized because of a lack of security and order, it was not to obtain security and order but to discredit and wear down the Army for political reasons of little constructive value. I say this not as a military man but as a member of the government. I heard the harsh criticisms made a year ago, (?six) months ago, or a year and a half ago, by a broad sector of society to the effect that the government should be firmer, that it should act with both hands, not only with the hand of reconciliation, forgiveness, and dialogue but also with the hand of order, firmness, strength, and repression, all within the framework of the law, of course.

"Now that this is happening, those same sectors are criticizing the government and saying that force is not the way to resolve these problems, that all of this was programmed; it was a show [previous word in English], that it is all a lie. As a member of the government I am definitely confused. If I were a military man I would be even more confused."

Lacayo outlined the steps Nicaragua has taken to gradually subordinate the military to civilian authority.

Among these steps were the appointment of a defense minister, who in this case is the president of the Republic, the reduction of the Army, and the assignation of the budget by the executive branch. He also said that relations should be fostered between society's many sectors and the Army.

"Where there is resolve, one can establish a relationship that could even end in friendship. If we all did that, the members of the National Assembly and the other members of the government, not all of whom have had a very close relationship with the Armed Forces or with members of the Training Centers, would see that in reality all are the same. We are Nicaraguans, each of us has a role to play and if we share certain goals we will understand each other much better. I believe the motor that will make all of this work is training, continuous dialogue, and forums, like this one, which will allow us to sit down and talk. Again I thank the institute.

"I believe all of this, in addition to a commitment to national interests, to democracy for all, to a Nicaragua for all, will make us what [name indistinct] described as members of a party (traspartidarios), which is a new word for me, but the concept is clear. It means going beyond party interests, beyond group interests, to the extent that all the sectors, whether they are going to or have been participating, place democratic interests for all Nicaraguans alike before their own interests. I am absolutely sure, and I want to make it clear in this speech, that for the Nicaraguan Armed Forces, there will be no problem in moving forward until Nicaragua has an Armed Forces subordinate to civilian authority."

In one of his final statements Lacayo said that continuous dialogue must be established in order to achieve military subordination.

"First of all, we must sit down to talk without insulting one another. We are a little behind. We have not yet been able to sit down yet. In Nicaragua, perhaps the first thing we ought to do is sit down at a table. When the government summons us to such a dialogue we should not lose our opportunity. Second, once we are seated we should not insult one another, as Luis said; and third we could define and clarify terms so that we all can speak the same language. Then we could discuss ways to establish these procedures, rules, and goals."

Lacayo Claims No Ties to International Terrorists

PA0608232593 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 5 Aug 93 pp 1,8

[Article by Vladimir Lopez]

[Text] Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo said that the government can show the U.S. Senate and Congress that it has no ties with any international terrorist network. "This does not rule out," he added, "that some people could be involved. I can assure you, however, that if the investigations discover people to be involved, whether they are civilians or soldiers, then neither the government nor the Armed Forces had any knowledge of it."

Minister Lacayo's reaction was learned on the afternoon of 4 August, eight days after the U.S. Senate approved a resolution requesting the suspension of aid to Nicaragua and demanding the arrest of those involved in supplying passports to the individuals responsible for the attack on the World Trade Center in New York.

Another demand contained in the Senate decision is an international investigation, including U.S. agencies, on the origin, leadership, and financing of the terrorist network uncovered in the Santa Rosa weapons cache incident. Likewise, the Resolution demands that no Nicaraguan Government official, including members of the Sandinist People's Army, the National Police, and the intelligence services, be involved in or supporting international terrorist actions.

Lacayo, who made these statements after participating in an interesting debate called "The Armed Forces' new role in Nicaragua," insinuated that the government has sufficient evidence to prove it is not involved with terrorist groups.

"To the present, we have," he said, "very clear and undisputable letters from U.S. Government officials expressing their gratitude for the manner in which our government has supplied all the information in the investigations. We are working on gathering all the information to clearly demonstrate to the U.S. senators and Congress that this government, far from fostering or allowing an international terrorist network here, is doing everything possible to facilitate its dismantling," Lacayo assured.

The presidency minister said he has letters from UN Observers for El Salvador at the U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua "thanking the government for the cooperation given to all those who have requested information regarding passports linked to the Twin Towers' bombing in New York and all information regarding the Santa Rosa cache."

Meanwhile, he said that the sharply questioned amnesty draft bill "will be sent urgently to the Legislative Assembly. In order to do this," he explained "we must comply with the requirement of sending the draft bill 48 hours before the next Legislative Assembly session. We understand this session will be held on 17 August."

Lacayo added that the draft bill will be sent a few days before the 17th so that the Legislative Assembly can study, debate, and then approve it. He indicated that this measure seeks "to avoid the normal procedures that imply a delay in its approval, and this is why it still has not been sent." When questioned if the draft bill would benefit Frank Ibarra, Pedrito El Hondureno [Victor Manuel Gallego Hernandez], El Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera], Nortiel [not further identified], and others, the minister said that the draft bill provides amnesty for those who surrender their weapons, "with the exception

of those guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity as defined in the international agreements, which our nation must respect. We hope that the Legislative Assembly will respect those international agreements that were ratified in the past by the Legislative Assembly."

Nevertheless, Lacayo's words about amnesty surprised some law experts, as there is no classification of war crimes nor of "crimes against humanity" in the Penal Code, while international legislation does not apply in criminal matters.

Even more surprising, however, was Lacayo's statement that the Legislative Assembly was going to assume this responsibility. "This is impossible as we are not dealing with exaiming each pardon case-by-case, rather we are dealing with an amnesty where these confusing exceptions are not taken into account."

When commenting on statements by Cardinal Obando y Bravo who said, "President Chamorro will remain in power until General Ortega wants," Lacayo said: "The cardinal had been rude."

"President Chamorro is not in the presidency as a result of a decision by General Ortega since the cardinal also voted on election day. It is an insult to the Nicaraguan people to say this since the people know that the majority voted for President Chamorro and she will remain in office until there are new elections, when the people may decide otherwise," Lacayo exclaimed.

Lacayo on Efforts To Ask Mexico, Spain To Mediate U.S. Aid

PA0608160593 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2132 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Managua, 5 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo said on 5 August that Mexico and Spain may approach the United States as mediators in an attempt to reverse the U.S. Senate decision to suspend economic aid to Nicaragua.

Lacayo said the ties of friendship that exist between the three Ibero-American countries favor the efforts that Mexico and Spain may undertake with the United States.

In the past three years Nicaragua has gone from a totalitarian system to a democratic process and from a centralized economy to a free market economy, Lacayo explained during a tour of several factories in Mexico City.

He added that Mexico and especially Spain understand the difficulties of a transition process because following the fall of General Francisco Franco in 1975 Spain rebuilt its democratic process.

On 2 August Lacayo concluded a visit to Mexico, although he declined to reveal whether or not he discussed with Mexican officials the suspension of U.S. aid.

Nicaraguan Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta traveled to Madrid on 4 August to meet with Spanish Government officials in an attempt to prevent the U.S. Senate amendment from being confirmed by Congress. [sentence as received]

In a diplomatic offensive in Washington, President Violeta Chamorro met on 3 August with Alexander Watson, assistant secretary of state for Inter-American affairs, to evaluate relations between the two countries.

Chamorro is on a private visit to the U.S. capital, but she is meeting with top officials from the Clinton administration, according to information out of Washington.

If Congress approves the amendment, it will be the second time a U.S. Senate amendment has frozen aid to Nicaragua. The amount of aid approved for 1993 [words indistinct], according to official sources.

Legislators Comment on Political Situation

PA0808184893 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 7 Aug 93 pp 1,8

[Report by Edgar Barberena]

[Text] Proposals by Danilo Aguirre Solis, [chairman of the Legislative Assembly justice commission], relating to the country's political situation and including comments on attempts by ultraconservative forces in the U.S. Senate to blackmail the Violeta Chamorro government, made news on 6 August among the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] rank and file.

Talking with FSLN legislator Ray Hooker Taylor, who is also second secretary of Legislative Assembly, EL NUEVO DIARIO agreed with the proposals diligently covered by Mr. Aguirre Solis in an editorial published on 6 August by this newspaper.

Hooker said: "I fully agree that we must not pay attention to what the Cosep [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] people are saying." He pointed out that the business sector and the UNO [National Opposition Union] "are really seeking to make Mrs. Violeta Chamorro a constitutional monarch."

The high-ranking Legislative Assembly official explained that the Cosep hierarchy and UNO extremists are seeking to transform the president into something Hooker describes as "a monarch without any real power, where all her speeches are written for her, she is told what to do, and has not an ounce of power."

Hooker indicated that they are doing this "because Cosep and the UNO want all the power for themselves and their own ends. They want to transform President Chamorro into something similar to the Queen of England, who has no political power and cannot make any public statements without receiving consent from the prime minister or the head of Parliament."

It is her business if she allows that to happen, the Sandinist deputy stated. At the same time he gave his opinion on the need for the FSLN to unite given the country's current circumstances.

During talks with legislators, EL NUEVO DIARIO found out that some non-Sandinist deputies and others are calling for a consensus and dialogue but they avoided commenting on the recent political "pushing and shoving" that has occurred since the U.S. Senate decided to put conditions on financial assistance to Nicaragua.

EL NUEVO DIARIO, in consulting with Permanent Worker's Congress leader Roberto Moreno, (who is also president of the Legislative Assembly labor affairs commission), regarding U.S. Senate pressure against Nicaragua, stated that "We are in so much difficulty economically that Nicaragua is drowning in a spoonful of water. If the withheld aid totals $50 million and the economically active population totals 1.5 million, that means that the only thing the people can do to make up that $50 million is to produce $3 in six months, which is fifty cents more each week than what we would otherwise have to produce."

"We are so poor that the government cannot even present a plan for each citizen to produce 50 cents a month. We should be able to do that by now."

Deputy Moreno said that if Costa Rica had to deal with a situation similar to the one initiated by Republican Senator Jesse Helms against Nicaragua "it would not even phase them. Over there they would have to talk about $500 million frozen."

Moreno's statements were made a few meters from the Presidency of the Republic, where all cabinet ministers met on 6 August to discuss and adopt economic measures. These economic measures have already fallen prey to gossip, especially those being spread by the political enemies of President Chamorro and her cabinet chief Antonio Lacayo.

Moreno said "it would be sad and regrettable for the government to respond (to the U.S. aid freeze) by devaluing the cordoba, because that would be another blow to the workers." He said: "We, the workers, do not want to pay more taxes because of devaluations. The workers want to produce more and can produce more than the $50 million that will be needed to fill the void left by the aid retention."

A few days before the legislature's normal sessions are restarted (on 17 August), Moreno said it is necessary for the legislature to take a stand. They must do so, he said, "not only with statements, but also by approving a number of laws that could be promoted at the National Assembly."

For instance, they could use Article 101 of the Political Constitution to create the National Council on Economic Planning, as "revising the fiscal affairs and other aspects of the country's economy would be a good contribution by the National Assembly."

Regarding the assertion made by FSLN Secretary General Daniel Ortega on 5 August about the need to transfer to the National Assembly some powers to influence economic policy, Deputy Moreno said that, since the current Constitution was debated, "I said too much dependence on the president is not good for the economy and those powers should be reduced."

The legislator said that not only should there not be an individual dictatorship, "but neither should there be an economic dictatorship, which would not benefit the workers or the businessmen. It would be good to grant the National Assembly some powers through partial reforms to the Political Constitution, and that is what we deputies are here for, to guard those kinds of national interests."

Editorial Claims EPS Not Negotiable for Aid

PA0708040293 Managua EL SEMANARIO in Spanish 5-12 Aug 93 p 6

[Editorial by Sergio Ramirez, Sandinist deputy and EL SEMANARIO president—passages in italics published in boldface]

[Text] Among the many voids created by the Clinton administration's ineptitude to define its foreign policy, one was very quickly resolved by Senator Jessie Helms, in reference to Nicaragua, a victim he has never wanted to release. The recent Senate vote suspended the $104 million financial aid. The vote, which passed by a landslide and was supported by well-known Democrats, is a clear demonstration that in the end, Helms imposes his will with his obstinate positions.

U.S. foreign policy toward Nicaragua is in the hands of Senator Jessie Helms' staff, all survivors of the jurassic Republican era, now that Steven Spielburg's film on dinosaurs is a hit. That policy, which is vengeful, implies the wiping out of the Sandinists from Nicaragua.

This is why they converted the Santa Rosa weapons cache case into very well orchestrated evidence. The Democrats were caught with their backs to the wall; either they were for or against international terrorism. Now it is the Clinton administration which has to certify that the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) and the National Police [PN] (institutions that, according to Helms, are terrorists because they are Sandinists) This has nothing to do with the cache. This is a requirement for the funds to be disbursed at some time.

Helms and his people know that the Santa Rosa cache is not the responsibility of the EPS or the PN. They know that the investigations on the origin of the weapons found, the documents on the planned kidnappings, the passports, and the public presentation of the same as criminal evidence would not have been possible unless the superior authorities of these two institutions wanted

it so. No evidence was hidden, everything was in the open. Now as it turns out, the ones accused of the crime are the ones who turned over the evidence, not only to the media but to the foreign governments interested in the case.

But, what we are truly dealing with here is the exchange of General Humberto Ortega's head for U.S. financial aid. LA PRENSA already said so very clearly on 3 August. According to an EFE dispatch, Alfredo Cesar, Helms' authorized spokesman in Nicaragua, said that in order for the disbursements to be made, for starters, General Humberto Ortega has to go. After that, we will see what other conditions follow and only in this way, Cesar added, will President Chamorro's lost credibility be recovered.

For Helms and those like Cesar, the question is very clear. They are convinced that the Sandinist's political ground in Nicaragua does not depend on the democratic rules set out by the Constitution but on the margin of security guaranteed by the EPS. Therefore, an army is needed, which will decide how much political ground the Sandinist will have in the future, or if it is going to have any at all. According to this criteria, a leftist army cannot decide on the political ground a leftists party will have. It has to be a repressive army, the final referee of democracy, which will assume this responsibility. The final responsibility is that one day Sandinism will no longer exist in Nicaragua.

It is sound for those, who believe in the guarantee of political gains as a genuine expression of a democratic society, to ponder on such a crucial issue because, the EPS has never conspired against those gains, like in other Latin American nations. The Sandinists should also be included in this meditation now that there is such an uproar and frenzy over the military institutions' conduct and their image in the wake of the Esteli incidents because no matter how obstinate those like Helms and Cesar are, on one account they are right. A repressive army with right-wing tendencies, a new National Guard, retrieved from the past and which longs to be at the service of the present that they now want, will have as its first task to repress and hunt down the Sandinists, given what they represent.

With this I want to say that it would be a terrible error for the Sandinists to assume the task of putting up the rope they want to hang us from by pointing fingers at the EPS's institutional weakness. That is why it is necessary to seriously consider the EPS' role since the change of government in 1990. This is not only for all Sandinists, but for society as a whole, and for the Nicaraguan democratic institutions. The EPS has played a revolutionary and patriotic role with General Humberto Ortega at its helm, not with *Pedro El Hondureno* at the helm of a rebel force, with its majority made up of peasants deceived by demagogy. This must be said because it is the truth.

The EPS has honored its constitutional mandate over the past three years and now they want to hand us the bill. The right wing here and in the United States is not rewarding the EPS for fulfilling its duty nor the government for having this army. On the contrary, the U.S. Senate, fueled and directed by Helms, is punishing the Nicaraguan Government for tolerating an armed institution that is not coupist nor disrespectful of the laws, although it does not accommodate itself with the ideological parameters of the U.S. fundamentalist right wing. Additionally, we are dealing with an unpaid debt. Helms was not able to defeat the EPS with his millions in a war he imposed on us during the past decade. Pointing a pistol he says to Nicaragua: Hand over the goods or your life.

The nation and the Sandinists cannot fall in that deadly trap. A screw has to be taken out of the return to the past program to make it feasible because we must have a new and different Armed Forces, one which does not compromise our sovereignty and which, based on its own rules, respects democracy, prevents discrimination, and defends the plan of having an independent country without any foreign attachments. This too has to be said because it is also the truth.

It is acceptable for Army to complete its professionalization process, using the country's legislative mechanisms, regulate the duties assigned to it, and stipulate the terms to be served by its commander and commanding officers. This is necessary and should be done.

Therefore, I think that the time to speak clearly about the Army has come. The time is now because we are seeing how the old plot to dismantle it through interference and blackmail is gathering force. I take the position of defending the Armed Forces' integrity and organization and of defending the patriotism and decorum of its command staff, officers, and soldiers, who are committed to a project that is a vital part of a worthy nation that we must preserve and defend.

Mendieta Cites FMLN's Villalobos on Arms Caches

PA0608201493 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] At a news conference on 3 August, Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta Artola and Colonel Luis Alexander, a representative of the UN Observers for El Salvador, reported the existence of at least four caches of weapons and ammunition belonging to the former Salvadoran guerrillas in different parts of Managua.

Government Minister Mendieta Artola revealed a letter sent by Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front leader Joaquin Villalobos to President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro confirming the existence of more caches of weapons and ammunition belonging to the Salvadoran insurgents on Nicaraguan soil.

[Begin recording] [Mendieta] In a letter addressed to President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro from Mr. Joaquin Villalobos, he said that an investigation conducted by his organization determined that there are indeed two [number as heard] caches of explosives and ammunition still in our country. This situation is undoubtedly worrisome, according to the letter, and Villalobos said he believes that if this is an irresponsible act, it would be even more irresponsible not to report the existence of said weapons to our government.

Now I will give the floor to Col. Alexander, who has some things to report to you.

[Alexander] [words indistinct] I confirmed 3 August that we have been working with the government intensely for the last two months. The Nicaraguan Government has been open and cooperative with [words indistinct] United Nations to discover and find these arsenals. This is the message I will [words indistinct] because the kind of irregular warfare that affected the area prevented all groups from knowing every detail concerning the weapons cache locations. This partly explains the difficulties we are facing. I insist and confirm that since the first day of our mission we have received frank and open help to clarify this situation and locate all possible caches [words indistinct] and destroy them. [end recording]

Panama

Foreign Ministry Communique on Arms Case

PA0908033793 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 6 Aug 93 p c6

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry on 5 August in Panama City]

[Text] Mrs. Mireya Uribe Prada hinted in an open letter to Foreign Minister Julio Linares dated 29 July that her sister, Victoria Eugenia Uribe de Cluet, the former deputy consul in Barcelona, Spain, was dismissed because the government and the country "needed a scapegoat to wash their international image, which has not been restored after it was discredited by the previous regime." Such a rash statement regrettably compels the Foreign Ministry to make public the reasons why Mrs. Cluet was dismissed:

1. President Guillermo Endara Galimany forwarded to the Foreign Ministry, for its information, a photocopy of a certificate of final destination [certificado de destino], apparently signed on 22 March 1993 by the deputy consul of Panama in Barcelona, regarding the purchase of a large number of firearms. Although said official had no authority to do so, the certificate stated that the weapons would be purchased for the sole use of the Government of the Republic of Panama and would not be reexported to any other country. Moreover, the national government never authorized the purchase of the weapons.

2. Not to hamper or ruin the investigations conducted abroad to discover the people who planned this criminal gunrunning operation, President Endara advised the foreign minister not to do any effort on this matter, at the request of foreign investigators.

3. In late April, the Czech Government voiced its desire to know about the truthfulness of the purchase due to the fact that the aforementioned certificate stated that the weapons were going to be purchased from Sezka Zbrojvka [not further identified] a.s. 688 27 Uber Brod, Czech Republic.

4. It does not fall within the Foreign Ministry's purview to establish the criminal responsibility that its officials, accused of or tried for offenses related to illegal gunrunning, may face. Nonetheless, it is up to the Foreign Ministry to impose due disciplinary sanctions on officials, even if they are not legally held responsible for the crime when they are negligent in fulfilling their mission.

5. On 14 June, Mrs. Uribe Prada delivered an extensive letter, marked confidential and dated 8 June, to the Foreign Ministry, in which she suggested investigating the "doubtful behavior," without making any specific charges against the Panamanian consul to Barcelona and his wife concerning a trip they made to Panama with Mr. Serge Pertucci and his wife, Lillianne. In that letter, Mrs. Uribe Prada also suggested investigating the alleged irregularities in the sale of blank certificates on a sailor's good health and qualifications. She voiced the fear that her sister not "only would be dismissed but that she would be dismissed for a crime that in her position could be described as some kind of embezzlement or corruption, which she was always very careful of."

6. When the time came to examine the administrative behavior of Deputy Consul Cluet on 18 June 1993, the foreign minister sent her DM [Foreign Ministry Letter] number 474/93 by fax and mail, which reads as follows:

"It has been brought to my attention the certificate of final destination, issued by you dated 22 March 1993, concerning a purchase from the firm Zeska Zerojvka of the Czech Republic was made by a company represented by Mr. Robert Breiner.

"Through these means, I hereby instruct you to send as soon as possible a very detailed report on that certificate.

"Likewise, I wish to remind you that all official documents must be issued in our official language, Spanish, and these may be accompanied by a translation, if necessary."

7. In view of the fact that 24 days passed without Deputy Consul Cluet answering the letter, the foreign minister on 12 July sent DM number 538/93 by fax and mail, which reads as follows:

"In DM 474/93 dated 18 June, I requested that you send as soon as possible a very detailed report on the issuance of a certificate of final destination for the purchase from

the firm Zeska Zerojvka of the Czech Republic, but this report has not yet been received.

"I reiterate the need to receive within the next few days the requested report."

8. The following day Deputy Consul Cluet communicated the following to the foreign minister:

"Note D.M. 474/93, dated June 18, arrived at this consulate on 8 June. I acknowledge receipt of the same, and I will send you my reply shortly."

As can be noted, the deputy consul, instead of answering the two notes sent by the foreign minister, simply acknowledged receipt of the first, stating she would reply shortly. Meanwhile, it seems strange that a note sent, first by fax on 18 June, was only received 8 July, and not in June, as indicated by error. Also, in case she was not clear about what was required from her, on that same day, that is, 13 July, she was sent a copy of the certificate of final destination that had originated the investigation by fax. In addition, the foreign minister advised Mrs. Uribe Prada about the difficult situation her sister was in so that Uribe Prada could make the deputy consul aware of the seriousness of the situation and to urge her to promptly reply to the Foreign Ministry. It is not true, however, that the foreign minister agreed with attorney Uribe Prada that they both would be discreet in their statements or that they would refrain from making them.

9. Because by 20 July, that is, seven days later, Deputy Consul Cluet still had not sent the Foreign Ministry "the reply" that she said she would be sending "shortly," the foreign minister sent fax D.M. 216/93, stating as follows:

"I still have not received the explanations requested in note D.M. 474/93 of 18 June 1993, reiterated in note D.M. 538/93 of 12 July. Your immediate reply is required."

10. On 26 July, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA published on its first page, five columns of news related to the issuance of the mentioned certificate of final destination. That same day, in the morning, Mrs. Uribe Prada delivered to the foreign minister a torn letter from her sister. According to Mrs. Uribe Prada, she had been attacked by thieves who attempted to steal the letter, dated 14 July, that is, 12 days before, which in part states:

"Because the consul general was absent from the consulate due to the long San Jose holidays (19 March 1993 and the following days), I was authorized to sign the documentation that might be presented. During that time, a young woman, who appeared to be Spanish and who spoke with an accent from Barcelona came to the consulate. She said her name was Nuria Comas. She gave me an original text on paper that had been stamped, which was, in effect, a certificate of final destination had been written in English. It was not, however, for the type of merchandise that is mentioned in Your Excellency's fax, rather it was an order for diesel refrigeration equipment of varying capacities that was purchased in Czechoslovakia. This was evidenced by the backup documents that were presented to me (invoice, letters, and a copy of a letter of credit) but which, as a rule, the consulate does keep.

"I asked the young woman to give me the blue and pink copies, as these were for the consulate files, and she replied that she did not know that, so she would be bring them the next day. She begged me, however, to issue the certification, because the letter of credit was going to expire and she was in a hurry. I asked her for her identification card and the written document she had, of which I made a copy and kept. She gave me a telephone number where I called her several times but I was informed that she was not there; after that, I lost tract of her.

"As soon as I received your note I started looking in my desk for copies of both documents which had the telephone number written on them. These are only photocopies but I am sending them attached, via my sister."

With the above mentioned letter, Deputy Consul Cluet only sent a photocopy of one certificate of final destination which, according to her, was the one she signed. This certificate referred to refrigeration equipment instead of weapons. Nevertheless, because the certificate that Deputy Consul Cluet said she signed, without being authorized to do so either, states that the equipment or material referred to in the certificate was for the sole use of the Government of the Republic of Panama and would not be reexported to any other country, on that same day the foreign minister sent letter D.M. 592 by fax which says:

"This is in reference to your letter of 14 July, received today 26 July, in which you respond to my question regarding the certificate of final destination issued to Eurounion Gilbaltrar, Ltd. It is necessary that you send me a new original of the above mentioned letter and its attachments, as the ones received were torn. The bearer of the letter, Mrs. Mireya Uribe, told me this had occurred when she was a victim of an attack.

"Likewise, I must receive immediately, this week by courier, all the information you can furnish on Nuria Comas and your explanation as to why you signed the certification presented to you, that is, that the purchase of the goods was solely for the use of the Government of Panama and that it would not be reexported to any other country, without having first verified the information therein stated and without being authorized to issue this certificate."

11. Upon his return from Costa Rica, the foreign minister found in his office a letter from Deputy Consul Cluet stating as follows:

"My sister called me and explained what had happened with the documents I sent you through her.

"Unfortunately, since it took me some time to find the documents, which I had put away, and the person I was sending them with was leaving, I did not have time to make copies of these before handing them over. I only have the letter, not the attachments; that is, a photocopy of Nuria Comas' identification card (i.d. size), on the back of which I had written her telephone number and a photocopy of the certificate.

"According to your request, I am resending the letter to replace the one my sister delivered to you that was torn by the thieves but I regret that I cannot send you a copy of the other documents as I do not have them. I sent what I had. My sister will send me a copy of what she handed over to your office, received at your office in the same condition in which she delivered them."

12. That same morning, a little later, the following fax was received from the deputy consul:

"This fax is to confirm receipt of yours, reference D.M. 591.

"I have the honor of advising you that what you requested from me today is on its way and will be personally delivered to you, hand carried by a reliable person.

"In addition, please note, Your Excellency, that I am at the disposal of the Foreign Ministry and any investigating authority to clear up as soon as possible this thorny matter. I hope the evidence I sent you for investigation will serve this purpose."

Because neither the deputy consul's letter or fax explained why she had certified in the certificate of final destination, even if it were accepted that it referred to refrigeration equipment, that the equipment was purchased for the sole use of the Government of the Republic of Panama and that it would not be reexported to any other country, the foreign minister sent the following letter via fax and mail:

"Upon my return from Costa Rica today, 29 July, I received your letter of 27 July and a fax dated today, neither of which answer the 26 July letter D.M. 591. This letter has very clear and explicit requests for information on the case of the certificate of final destination issued by you to Eurounion Gibraltar, Ltd.

"In my letter D.M. 591, I requested that you 'immediately send me, this week by courier,' in addition to all the information on Nuria Comas, an explanation on why you signed a certificate, whose purchase was for the sole use of the Government of Panama and that it would not be reexported to any other nation, without having confirmed this with the authorities and without being authorized to issue this certificate.

"The response you attempt to give in your letters do not answer my questions in any way. Moreover, since 18 June 1993, that is, one month and 18 days ago, I have been asking you for explanations without receiving them."

As soon as the fax was sent, the foreign minister called Mrs. Uribe Prada to inform her of her sister's delay in replying to what was being requested; therefore she would be discharged the same day unless she resigned. Nevertheless, the foreign minister waited until 1600 that day for Deputy Consul Cluet to send the requested information. Given that the information was not received at that time, she was then discharged.

13. Without going into greater detail for lack of space, it is evident that in this case the former deputy consul to Barcelona has been negligent, even if the certificate of final destination, which she signed, allegedly involved refrigeration equipment, because:

a) She should have never certified that the equipment, or anything else, was being purchased for the sole use of the Government of the Republic of Panama and that it would not be reexported to any other country without due authorization for that purpose by a Panamanian authority.

b) She did not keep any documents to support or justify the transaction she made but relied on the promise of one Nuria Comas, whom she did not even know and who said these documents would be delivered the next day. In fact, in her letter dated 14 July, Deputy Consul Cluet admits that she only kept the photocopy of Mrs. Comas' identification card and her telephone number, which turned out to be false, and the document she was presented for her signature.

c) Up to the date of her dismissal, she had not explained to the Foreign Ministry the reasons why she had involved the national government, without being authorized to do so, at the request of a person foreign to the government, such as Mrs. Nuria Comas.

14. On 4 August, the Foreign Ministry received a letter from the former deputy consul of Panama to Barcelona in which she says:

"Mr. Foreign Minister: Even though I am very confused, all I can say is that I did not sign that certificate of final destination with the wording as it appears, and I even doubt that is my signature. I must say that when one holds an official post, many times one must act according to one's common sense. Due to the big time difference there is with Panama, if someone, who is not suspicious at all, comes in saying he urgently needs a certificate because a letter of credit is going to expire on some merchandise that seems harmless, in order not to delay the export and cause more obstacles, one does what seems most appropriate at the time. In other kinds of paperwork that frequently come up, one is clear on what is the most appropriate path to follow. This is, however, the first time that I was confronted with a certificate of final destination and I thoughtt I was doing the right thing because no manual refers to this type of certificate. Inasmuch as the General Directorate of Consulates and Shipping demands documents in Spanish or English, I did not think I was committing any violation."

It is unfortunate that common sense did not tell the former Deputy Consul Cluet that it was far from harmless to say, as a consular official of Panama, that a certain merchandise was being purchased for the sole use of the Government of the Republic of Panama, that it would not be reexported to any other country, and to confirm all this without being authorized by any Panamanian official.

15. Shortly after the letter was received, the president of the Republic and the foreign minister were informed by the Office for State Security that a second certificate of final destination was also signed, apparently by the former deputy consul of Panama to Barcelona on 22 March 1993, and it concerned the purchase of 1,800 Uzi machine guns from an Austrian firm by Eurounion Gibraltar, Ltd. These weapons were also allegedly destined for the sole use of the Government of the Republic of Panama and would not be reexported to any other country.

[Issued] Panama, 5 August 1993.

Endara Comments on Barcelona Arms-Trafficking Case

PA0808173193 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] The existence of a second weapons purchase certificate, apparently signed by Panaman's vice consul in Barcelona, has President Guillermo Endara worried.

[Begin recording] [Endara] As the Foreign Ministry has said, this soap opera is not over. We may find another one.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, we have been told that a commission left for Spain on 5 August. Is this true?

[Endara] It will leave at noon; it will be leaving in the next few hours.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, many people are saying that the vice consul is a scapegoat and that there is a lot more behind this. Some say other officials are involved. What do you have to say about this?

[Endara] Let us speak openly; people know that the consul's brother is one of my partners. There is no evidence connecting the consul to this matter. He has done nothing. Those people are looking for the cat's fifth leg, so they can involve me up this mess but I assure you there is no truth to it. There is no scapegoat in this case. The lady simply signed some certificates when there was no reason to do so. [end recording]

Linares Denies Differences With Endara on Gunrunning Case

PA0808044293 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 5 Aug 93 p 1a

[Report by Ruben Dario Diaz]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares denied there are any differences or opposition between President Guillermo Endara and himself as a result of the gunrunning scandal. Linares has given assurances that he has not been under pressure to resign. Meanwhile, First Lady Ana Mae Diaz de Endara believes the Panamanian authorities should punish fired Vice Consul Victoria Uribe de Cluet.

On 4 August, the foreign minister, accompanied by the president in the presidential palace's Yellow Room, issued a statement to local and foreign reporters on the gunrunning case of thousands of weapons, which involves diplomatic officials from the consulate in Barcelona, Spain. No questions were allowed.

Linares spoke of a "soap opera story" that some legislators from the Legislative Assembly's foreign relations commission made and added that "the soap opera has not ended." Linares also announced that President Endara and he were informed by Panamanian security bodies on the investigation international authorities are conducting of the gunrunning case, which has caught the Panamanian community's attention.

This information, according to Linares, mentions a second certificate signed on 22 March 1993, apparently by the Barcelona consulate former Vice Consul Victoria Uribe, the same way she signed the first one. According to this second certificate, signed by the former vice consul, the foreign minister stated that Eurounion Gibraltar, Ltd., a Panamanian corporation, purchased 1,800 Uzi 9-mm machine guns, each with six clips.

In view of the situation, the minister said that the government has no intention of concealing any information. Linares said that no one is exerting any pressure on him to resign because the president is the only person who can dismiss him. At the same time Linares confirmed that there are no differences or opposition between the president and himself.

President Guillermo Endara's wife also stated her position regarding this gunrunning scandal, following her participation in the planting of 500 oak trees in the Hector Gallego Park.

Mrs. Endara said that this scandal does not implicate the Panamanian Government or the president of the Republic because the person who signed those documents was the former Barcelona Vice Consul Victoria Uribe; therefore, she should be appropriately punished.

Argentina

Minister Admits 'U.S. Pressure' To Suspend Condor-2 Project

PY0708024993 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1807 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Aug (NA)—Defense Minister Oscar Camilion today admitted that "it is absolutely correct" that there had been U.S. pressure on Argentina to suspend the Condor-2 project. He explained, however, that the final decision was made unilaterally by the Argentine Executive Branch.

Regarding the former head of the Condor-2 project, Commodore Miguel Guerrero, he confirmed that "he has been granted leave because he was entitled to it." He added: "The fact that the project had been suspended may have inspired this position."

Camilion denied "unrest" among military as a result of the low salaries. He admitted, however, that "there is concern" over the military budget "because the small amount of resources placed at the disposal of the military sector make it difficult to meet some of the duties attributed to them by the laws."

Camilion made these comments to the Mexican television network "Eco." On this occasion he repeated that the Condor-2 project "has been entirely suspended" and admitted that there has been U.S. pressure "for its suspension."

Camilion pointed out: "There is no doubt about it." He added: "It was not only the United States that wanted the project to be suspended. The UN Security Council, which is hostile to the proliferation of this sort of weapon, also wanted this."

Camilion said that Argentina believes that "any sort of project linked to massive destruction weapons is politically impossible and morally unacceptable." He said that the Condor-2 project "used up large amounts of resources that could have been allocated to other priorities" and that as a result, "it has been entirely suspended."

He explained that although the United States was interested in the project's suspension, "the Argentine decision was unilateral because our country is clearly conscious that this sort of initiative can place us in a position that can be internationally misunderstood and, therefore, does not favor us."

He said: "We do not manufacture nuclear and chemical weapons because we do not want to, and because we believe that by doing so we would be violating the basic rules of international coexistence." He added: "We will not manufacture bacteriological weapons because we deem them immoral" and "not because international rules forbid it."

He pointed out: "The best way of ensuring peace is to convince the largest number of countries possible to give up manufacturing this sort of product."

Camilion then confirmed that the Falda del Carmen plant in Cordoba Province, where the Condor-2 manufacturing facilities were installed, "will be recycled" because it has "valuable components." He added, however, that the Falda del Carmen facilities "are no longer part of the Defense Ministry, and are now administered by the National Commission for Atomic Energy."

Camilion said he "has hopes" for the "Pampa 2000" plane bidding called for by the U.S. Department of State. He said the plane is a "serious competitor" in view of "its quality" and that "this allows us to hope for successful sales of this Argentine plane." He pointed out that it "can be used as an offensive weapon and that, according to the international community criterion, it is legal and convenient."

Camilion said that Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo "will allocate all resources possible to the defense area." He said that there are two criteria to allocate funds to this area: "One is the need to ensure a minimum national security, and the other the need not to hinder the economic policy." He added that the economy minister "looks after his accounting, and this is reasonable."

He remembered that some time ago there were "severe cutbacks in defense area expenditures because the economic recovery of Argentina and the stabilization policy called for them. The time has come for changing some things in this sector. This is precisely where the Armed and Security Forces' concern lies," he remarked.

With regard to the possible participation of an Argentine contingent in UN peacekeeping forces, Camilion said that "it is professionally advisable, financially possible, and politically desirable because it gives prestige to the country."

Concerning the probe into alleged human rights violations during the Malvinas war, Camilion pointed out that "we want to get to the bottom of the issue, rather that filing charges."

To conclude, the defense minister asserted that it is not a "failure" to have received only a few charges [of human rights violations] because "our objective is to find the truth."

Bolivia

Sanchez de Lozada on Ties With United States

PY0708114593 Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish 1 Aug 93 National Section p 4

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] La Paz, 31 July (JATHA)—President-elect Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada today told JATHA that

unlike what has happened in the recent past, his administration will not accept everything that is proposed by the United States. We will develop serious, dignified, and sovereign ties with the United Sates on the basis of mutual respect, particularly on issues such as extradition and drug trafficking.

Sanchez de Lozada said: "One of the characteristics of Paz Zamora's administration was to accept any U.S. proposal; that is, his administration did not reject U.S. proposals or discuss them; but after accepting them, did not fulfill them either. This was the cause of conflicts with the United States." He also said: "Generally, the United States has helped Bolivia a lot. Generally, the United States did not make many impositions but did demand compliance with these agreements." Sanchez de Lozada added that the error lies in accepting anything and later not fulfilling these agreements."

He stated: "With the United States, like with any other country, things must be discussed before signing any papers, not after signing them. It is even worse to ignore them after they are signed."

In our case, any agreement will be discussed extensively before signing it. We will accept what we really agree on and we will fulfill our agreements. If we do not agree with it, we will not sign it.

I believe this change of attitude will result in better bilateral ties with the United States.

Regarding the extradition treaty signed with the United States in 1900 and the U.S. demand to renew it after the inclusion of important amendments—for drug trafficking and subversive crimes—Sanchez de Lozada said the issue will be extensively debated at the proper time.

He said: "As I said in the United States, the 1900 treaty was signed by my grandfather, Daniel Sanchez Bustamante, who was Bolivian foreign minister at the time. This is why I regard this treaty with a certain fondness.

He asserted: "I believe that in order to meet current needs, these amendments must be included in the new treaty, but if important problems arise with the new treaty, then the situation calls for an ample revision."

He explained that the Supreme Court has expressed many doubts about the extradition issue: "I do not know whether it is because it does not want to assume its responsibility or because these defects truly exist. But if there are any major defects, we will draft a new treaty." He added that international relations must be necessarily subjected to these kinds of agreements but that his administration will carefully study the issue because sometimes extradition treaties and other treaties that are signed are inadequate.

Sanchez de Lozada said: "We will carefully study the demands included in the new draft treaty so as to safeguard Bolivian sovereignty, the dignity of the Executive Branch, and safeguard the human rights of all Bolivians; but if we have to do something reasonable regarding the extradition issue, we will do it."

Regarding the eradication of coca farms, which is one of the demands made by the United States in exchange for its economic aid, and the alternative development program, Sanchez de Lozada admitted that he has not yet studied these issues extensively.

"We believe the alternative development program must encompass the entire national territory, and not only those regions where numerous coca farms are located because coca farming areas lure people from Potosi, Sucre, Oruro, La Paz, Cochabamba and other regions. This is because their places of origin do not offer them acceptable living conditions."

Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada added: "Notwithstanding, I must add that we still have not designed a policy in this regard but that we will do so only after consulting and negotiating with different social forces involved in the issue, as well as with the international community."

Asked about his view on the need to legalize the consumption of cocaine, a coca leaf byproduct with great commercial success, Sanchez de Lozada said he already expressed his opinion during a special meeting with international experts concerned with drug consumption in industrialized countries.

He said that a measure of this sort would have to be the result of an international consensus because the drug problem affects the entire world, and it would be ridiculous for a small country such as Bolivia, which is known to be a coca-producing country, to unilaterally propose to legalize drug use.

Sanchez de Lozada said: "Through the proposal of creative initiatives, my administration intends to implement policies that will allow Bolivia to cease producing surplus coca leaves, that is, to eradicate that coca leaf production destined for cocaine manufacturing. We hope to count on international cooperation to achieve this goal."

Sanchez de Lozada said the previous MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] administration launched a series of policies to resolve this problem and admitted that the Paz Zamora administration, which is about to end its term, has improved them. Consequently, he said, his administration will conscientiously expand these policies, aware that this is not the problem of just one administration or a single political party but of all Bolivians.

Minutes before his interview with JATHA, Sanchez de Lozada held a meeting with U.S. Ambassador Charles Bowers and a group of U.S. visitors.

Regarding this meeting, Sanchez de Lozada said that during the meeting they did not discuss narcotrafficking

or subversion. He said it was a meeting with environmental experts with whom he exchanged points of view on environmental policies that might be promoted by his administration.

He said that during a recent visit to the United States he discussed the issue with U.S. Vice President Al Gore, to whom he made some proposals on environmental issues. He added that Gore promised to send a delegation of environmental experts to suggest some ideas and that he fulfilled his promise.

Sanchez de Lozada concluded by stating that his administration will treat international ties with the United States and other countries in an open, fair, and just manner in order to try obtaining the best benefits for Bolivia.

Sanchez de Lozada Gives Inaugural Speech

PY0708013693 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 2053 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Inaugural speech by President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada from the Congress building in La Paz—live]

[Text] Your Excellency President of the National Senate, Your Excellency President of the Chamber of Deputies. I would like to take this opportunity through you to greet and thank the party to which I belong, just as did my father from an early age. This is a party I love, and the only thing I love more is the Bolivian people. [applause]

Your Excellency President of the Supreme Court, I hope that together with all Bolivians we will be able to make a reality that the only servitude in Bolivia will be servitude to the law. Your Excellencies, Mr. Presidents, and chiefs of state of the friendly nations that honored us here today with their presence: I would like to tell you that Bolivia does not have enemies or friends, it only has brothers, and you are among the most beloved. [applause]

Former Presidents of the Republic, I would like to thank you for your efforts, for your will in serving the fatherland, for providing an example, and for continuing in this struggle even after the conclusion of your administrations. I thank you on behalf of all Bolivians. [applause]

Your Excellencies, chiefs, and members of special missions accredited for this inauguration; Honorable diplomatic corps, honorable members of the National Electoral Court, there is nothing else to say. Ortega y Gasset [Spanish philosopher] was right when he said that no matter how good democracy is, everything depends on a little detail—the electoral process—and you have made this detail a reality, because we now feel that the people, in addition to voting, also elected. [applause]

Commanders of the Armed Forces, commanders, Chief of the General Staff, and members of the High Military Command, I greet you because we know that thanks to you, democracy has a foundation and a future. [applause]

Commander and members of the National Police High Command, I greet you aware of the important role you must play among the people, bringing them peace and tranquility, and I hope that this principle will prevail in all your actions and thoughts. [applause]

Illustrious Bishop and high hierarchy of the church, I ask you for your prayers, because a president of Bolivia needs the help of the people and the blessing of God, and this is why I ask you to continue with your work and help us all with your words and your example.

Honorable Senators and Deputies—I am overcoming my nervousness, because this is my home. [applause] This is where I began to learn about democracy, and I intend to come back here only if I can comply with my duty as president of the Bolivian people. [applause]

People of Bolivia, dear and loved Bolivian people, during my administration I intend to transform the popularity and affection you have given me into respect and wisdom. Respectfully and humbly, I intend to begin with the following words. Solemnly complying with an act of this nature, I am reading a speech. This is the first time in my life I have read a speech. I am beginning to change. [applause]

But as sincerity has always been my characteristic, I am going to make some comments alongside this speech, with some other ideas pertaining to this moment of great importance for the life of our democracy and nation.

The president who today assumes office is the last in the 20th century. Today we are dedicating a period of transition between one century and the next. The work that Bolivians may now undertake will define our profile as a people and as a nation at the dawn of the 21st century. This is a timely occasion to reflect upon and analyze what we are and what we may become.

In this century, humanity has witnessed actions by titanic forces that have changed the world and the life of mankind as never before in history.

Mankind has stepped on the moon and descended to the deepest abyss. Just as in most nations, the brilliant ideas of freedom, equality, revolution, and democracy have also flourished and borne fruit here. But we have also suffered—as very few countries have—the harmful effects of war among brothers—among Bolivians as well as among brothers in the continent. We have also suffered the consequences of backwardness and dependency, injustice and marginalism, drug trafficking and corruption.

Without a doubt, inflation has been with us since the Chinese invented paper money. We have suffered corruption since Eve offered the apple to Adam. But the great secret of society is to be careful with hyperinflation

and hyper-corruption. We will lower the index on corruption to a single digit during my administration. Corruption will be the exception and not the rule, so as to be able to fulfill our commitment to our people and our names. [applause]

But political instability has been perhaps our greatest problem. It has placed almost insurmountable hurdles in the path of our development and fulfillment. We have had progress and we experienced steps backwards. But it would be unfair to say that we have not tried. Our people has struggled hard in the search for a better destiny. But no one can sincerely and honestly say today that we are satisfied with the place we occupy, and that we have fulfilled the dreams of our founding fathers.

What is Bolivia today, at the end of the 20th century? First, it is a peculiar expression of complementary values. Without a doubt Bolivia belongs to the West, because of its geographical position and because of its strong historic links with Europe and the United States.

But Bolivia can also be considered to belong to the East, because our native peoples, which are a majority of the population, give more importance to the community than to the individual. We have a vision of the world that is closer to that of Asian peoples than to that of Western countries. This is an advantage at this time in history, when we have imposed on ourselves the task of opening important channels for people's participation in the decisionmaking process in matters affecting their lives, a basic condition for greater equality and social justice.

Bolivia is also a unified country, while at the same time it is diversified, where different cultures, ethnic groups, and ecosystems coexist under the protecting hand of the Republic. We speak dozens of languages and dialects, and Spanish has different tones according to different zones, such as the Spanish spoken by the president of the Republic. [laughs, applause]

Many people have asked me why I cannot lose this accent. Victor Hugo [Cardenas] has even offered to help me get rid of it within a few months.

But I do not want to lose it because it is a mark of dignity. It comes from my parents' exile, and that is why I want to keep it to the end of my days. [applause, shouts of "Bravo"]

In Bolivia, different people have reconciled their interest in a common destiny that is known by the name of Bolivia.

We live in an atmosphere of peace, in contrast with the violence that is unfortunately affecting other nations of the world that have been unable to achieve unity in diversity.

Furthermore, despite the fact that our political system is of a presidentialist nature, the mechanism for electing the president through a runoff election in Congress—when no candidates have obtained an absolute majority—gives a parliamentary connotation to our system. This calls for agreement and alliances, which are the basis for governability and stability in (?our government). [applause]

Today we have an exceptional opportunity. Democracy is consolidating. We are achieving economic and political stability, which will help us move forward.

The majority—the vast majority—of Bolivians no longer believe that changes can be achieved only through violence. We have discovered that we can achieve the same results through voting, through the people's will that is expressed by the democratic vote.

To turn democracy into an effective instrument for change, instead of a mere ritual for maintaining the system unchanged and unaltered, is a truly revolutionary step of great significance for achieving socioeconomic development in a framework of stability, peace, and freedom.

Peace, change in order, and order in peace is by all means the best definition of democracy and progress.

Bolivia, therefore, has some advantages with respect to other countries that are also striving to overcome underdevelopment. Yet these advantages can be wasted without producing any benefit if we Bolivians are unable to work for a great national project of sustainable economic growth, with social justice and people's participation. And this is the project that we are offering to Bolivia and to all Bolivians. [applause]

The new time ahead of us is a time of change, a time in which the structure of the state must be able to meet the actual needs of the people. People demand from those who govern... [changes thought] This time calls for honest, qualified leaders, who can create the appropriate conditions for harmonic interrelations between capital and work, between regions and the nation; leaders who can guarantee that the fruits of collective effort and sacrifice will not be wasted in the pockets of corrupt people; leaders who will tell no lies to people, who will tell them that there are no overnight miracles, and that the only, the only miracle is the miracle that emerges from imagination and from work.

The time for change is here. It is here for all Bolivians, for entrepreneurs, workers, peasants, professionals, students, the military, policemen, and for all Bolivian men and women.

We all have to start working with a single dedication, a dedication to service and solidarity. In the next four years Bolivia will have to meet bold challenges, creative proposals, a government style that will not demand more than what it can show, with examples, but that also will not be satisfied with less.

Because it is in our thoughts and our will to change the points of reference that have up to now been the cause and effect of our backwardness. Now, the economy must serve man, and not the other way around. The benefits of employment, education, and health should reach

everyone. May we soon be able to say that no more Bolivian children go to bed hungry.

In these new times women will have an important role in the appropriation of resources for education and health. As women are the ones who work harder in our society, their education and health will represent the development of our families and our nation. [applause]

In these new times development must respect the environment. Nature is our heritage which we will bequeath to future generations and we cannot destroy it. For this reason, and because ecology is an issue of world interest, we will try to obtain inter-American policies of consensus around the environment. We want the New World to become the New World again. [applause]

In these new times the countryside and the provinces must be privileged with investments and development, because this is where the largest percentage of poverty and the main threat of instability to our society as a whole exists.

In these new times, the hundreds of years of injustice, a justice that never existed, must come to an end forever. In these new times, all Bolivian men and women, all Bolivian children, all of us, must be the builders of our own destiny and happiness. With everyone's support, because we can do it together, I hope to make Bolivia into an exemplary country, never feared, always respected, a free country with sovereign access to the sea, by virtue of reason and not by virtue of force. [applause] A country firmly established on the path of economic and social development, where the differences between those who have more and those who have less would not be, as it is now, offensive to the dignity of people.

We want Bolivians in the 21st century to look at these years as the fortunate years of planting in which the country changed forever. We all have a place in this cause because this is the cause of Bolivia. I invite you all to accompany me on this long journey of many kilometers, which is beginning today with a first step. We will no longer talk; we will march. Let the Lord enlighten us; I thank you very much. [applause]

Addresses Military

PY0708160593 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1456 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Speech by Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada to the military during flag allegiance ceremony at El Alto Military Air Base—live]

[Text] Mr. Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Messrs. commanders of the three Armed Forces branches, soldiers of Bolivia, civilian and judicial government officials, diplomatic representatives:

Yesterday I solemnly swore to respect, defend, and maintain the country's political Constitution. And above all, I also intended to include an absolute respect for the Constitution and the laws as far as the nation's Armed Forces are concerned. The military hierarchy will be respected; the role of the Armed Forces provided for by the Constitution also will be respected.

Likewise, we will make a great effort to maintain this force, this organization, this institution absolutely free of any political influence of cronyism and party politics, because otherwise we will not be respecting our fatherland and our task.

This does not mean that soldiers, privates, and officers of the fatherland do not have the right to have their own preferential ideas and thinkings in this field. But in their role, in the fulfillment of their military role, we will not allow, and will do everything possible to prevent, political aspects from influencing our considerations or our treatment of the nation's Armed Forces.

Yesterday, in beginning my speech, I greeted the Armed Forces as the basic foundation of democracy and as a guarantee that will last. How can we keep a house up, then, if we destroy its foundations? This does not mean that we accept the idea that the Armed Forces must be a tutelar institution, but we do accept that it is an essential institution that emerged virtually together with the fatherland and cannot cease to exist while the nation exists.

This forces us to review its potential. But to strengthen the Armed Forces we must strengthen Bolivia. Where in the world can we see powerful armed forces in poor countries? Isn't the experience of the Soviet Union enough, which dedicated a major part of its budget and effort—which sacrificed its people—and could not maintain its Armed Forces, because a society that is not productive, that does not grow, where there is no development and there is no social justice, is a society that cannot support nor worthily maintain and much less fulfill its task, which is symbolized and represented by the armed forces of the nation.

No. This organization will not disappear, and I doubt that it will be reduced.

I doubt the Armed Forces budget will be reduced. We will work on this. But we will ask you, and I am asking you, as captain general of the Bolivian Armed Forces, to consider changes.

In times of change, the Armed Forces must join in. New functions, new tasks must be assigned to them, without removing them—ever—from the tasks and responsibilities established in the Bolivian Constitution.

There are institutions here in the Armed Forces that are engaged in education. They are dedicated to education throughout. This function may reach many educational functions in the entire country.

There are institutions here that represent our nationality. Even today, this day is celebrated in the most remote, coldest, and warmest locations, remembering your institution and your fatherland, your flag, and your tradition.

The Armed Forces cannot be detached from the role of participation in national integration.

In the new proposal, in a bill we will send to Congress involving the Executive Branch's organization, we will create a sustainable development council in which the Economic Development Ministry, the Social Development Ministry, the Sustainable Development Ministry, the Armed Forces, and the Social Communications Ministry will participate. These five ministries will have the major duty of pursuing a process of sustainable economic and social development, with social justice, popular participation, and, especially, patriotism and love for our fatherland.

Our government will begin a process of integration of the Armed Forces into our nation's political, social, and environmental life.

New tasks will be required from you. And I know that you will respond to this requirement.

In this time of change, the Armed Forces will indeed be asked to be at the forefront. The time for susceptibility, the time for isolation, is already in the past. The Armed Forces will be assigned roles and functions that will be carefully studied. Actions will be taken after listening to the parties concerned, through work and sound proposals. Once decisions are made, the respective instructions and orders will be given. I know these orders will be obeyed because I know that men who are living to die for the fatherland are no doubt prepared to work for it and serve it.

As I visit with you here today, I also realize that one of the most important tasks is to unite Bolivia by respecting our diversity. But this unity must be achieved in an atmosphere of civic respect and patriotism, especially to win over our young people. We must all show true love for Bolivia so that we all can serve our country honestly and to the best of our ability from our own area of responsibility.

We want a model fatherland, which should never be feared but always respected. This fatherland will stem from a great Armed Forces. I recently had the chance to visit Jujuy Province in Argentina and stopped my vehicle near abandoned, rundown monuments symbolizing the great victories obtained by the armies of Marshal (Brandt) and by the Bolivian Armed Forces in discharging their duties to defend the Bolivian territory at that time. Jujuy Province was occupied then. The capital of Jujuy was taken. But, as soon as assurances were received from the River Plate provinces, we withdrew our forces because our only aspiration has always been to live in peace, respect, and love with our brothers.

The time has come to recognize what the Armed Forces have done, their great men, their great acts of courage, those hard and painful moments they have always overcome with honor and patriotism. The time has come for the Armed Forces to rejoin the nation so they are received within the Bolivian family. As captain general of the Armed Forces, it is my decision to do that and I will devote my efforts toward this goal. You will receive all my respect and support because I love you and I am showing that I love my fatherland. Thank you, Bolivian soldiers. [applause]

Solana, Castro Hold Talks in Bolivia

LD0608195693 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1900 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Fidel Castro has conveyed to [Spanish Foreign] Minister Javier Solana his gratitude for the results of the visit [to Cuba] by Carlos Solchaga and several economic aides. That meeting was surrounded by the greatest secrecy and occurred a few days after the legalization of the circulation of the dollar on the island. The foreign minister met with Fidel Castro in Bolivia where both are attending the inauguration of the president of the country.

Castro Interviewed at Sanchez de Lozada's Inauguration

PY0608233893 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 2140 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Interview with Cuban President Fidel Castro by unidentified reporters in the Red Hall of Government House in La Paz, after President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada's inaugural speech--live]

[Text] [Reporter] Commander, what did you feel when for the first time in your life you came to the country where Che Guevara died?

[Castro] Che has not been the only distinguished man in this country. I was touched to think about Simon Bolivar, Antonio Jose de Sucre, Che Guevara, and many other Bolivians. I thought about the Bolivian revolutionaries of 1952, when they began the nationalist revolution. I thought about many things. This is a country with a long history, a country of struggling people, of people who have suffered. This is a country that deserves love, solidarity. That is what I thought about when [29 second interruption in transmission] ...so I have spoken with many Bolivian military men, we received delegations, and we talked with them.

[Reporter] What do you think of the fact that an Indian is for the first time vice president of a Latin American country?

[Castro] Well, I am surprised to hear that for the first time an Indian has been elected vice president. I think that many Bolivians have Indian blood, right? Or don't you have a little bit of Indian blood?

[Reporter] Yes, a lot, and I am proud of it.

[Castro] Hasn't anyone like you been vice president?

[Reporter] No, not in Bolivia.

[Castro] I can tell you that I liked the vice president's speech very much. I was a bit surprised when he spoke in another language, but I nonetheless applauded him because I imagined he was saying good things. The vice president spoke with great spirit and dignity. I liked that. I think it is great progress. I think Rigoberta [Menchu, Noble Peace Prize winner] must be very glad about this, given that her struggle is precisely for the vindication of the rights, equality, dignity, and identity of the Indian population of Latin America and the rest of the world. But the great majority of the people in this country are Indian, so it is logical that they should have an Indian vice president. Logically, I hope that some day it will also have an Indian president.

[Reporter] What are the perspectives for further rapprochement between Cuba and Bolivia, and in what fields could this be? What do you think of this integration of perspectives?

[Castro] Well, that will happen little by little. There will be cooperation in different fields, in the field of medicine, in higher education, in health in general. If we work on this, we must seek all fields where cooperation is possible. We buy some tin, because everyone in the world needs tin, which is a Bolivian product. Of course, given the landlocked situation of Bolivia, there are great difficulties affecting trade, but I hope this will be solved.

Castro: Cuba 'Will Not Kneel' Before United States

PY0608134993 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Bolivia became the focus of international attention yesterday, not just as a result of President-elect Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada's installation but also because of the arrival of several foreign presidents and officials—particularly Cuban President Fidel Castro who was warmly welcomed and who has attracted the attention of the Bolivian and foreign media.

Argentine President Carlos Raul Menem, Paraguayan President-elect Juan Carlos Wasmosy, former Brazilian President Jose Sarney, and several delegations from friendly countries all arrived yesterday. These delegations were headed by foreign and other ministers, and representatives of international organizations. Everyone's attention and curiosity, however, was centered on the Cuban leader, who created public commotion ever since his arrival yesterday, like during his visit to Government Palace to greet President Paz Zamora. Bolivia has become news since Commander Fidel Castro's arrival.

In this historic visit to Bolivia, which began yesterday, Castro has created public commotion in view of the demonstrations of affection and solidarity shown to him. President Fidel Castro has reported that his country will open up to the world and that he is willing to implement changes. He warned, however, that the Cuban revolution will not kneel before the United States and will live even if he dies.

President-Elect Asks Spain To Maintain Cooperation Programs

PY0608124493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2250 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] La Paz, 5 Aug (EFE)—During a meeting with Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana today, Bolivian President-elect Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada asked Spain to continue its cooperation programs.

At the end of the meeting, during which they briefly reviewed the cooperation program with Bolivia, Solana and Sanchez de Lozada both commented: "It has been a satisfactory meeting."

Solana disclosed that the new Bolivian president, who will assume the presidency on 6 August voiced his desire that the Spanish private sector step up its investments in Bolivia.

Spain has important cooperation programs with Bolivia, which range from programs like the glass-of-milk program for school kids in very poor regions, to the building of highways with resources of the Development Aid Fund [Fondo de Ayuda al Desarrollo].

Chile

Robaina's Visit Confirmed; Senator Criticizes U.S. Embargo

PY0708154193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 6 Aug (EFE)—The Chilean Foreign Ministry confirmed today that Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina will pay a private visit to Chile next week.

Robaina will go to Chile after Cuba's official delegation, of which he is a member, attends the inaugurations of the Bolivian and Paraguayan [as received, Paraguayan inauguration is 15 August] presidents.

The Cuban foreign minister will meet his Chilean counterpart, Enrique Silva Cimma, who said the meeting will be private as well because there are no diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Chile and Cuba severed diplomatic relations in September 1973 after the military coup d'etat that overthrew President Salvador Allende's socialist administration.

The two countries agreed to reestablish consular relations in 1991 during the Ibero-American Summit in Guadalajara (Mexico).

The Chilean Government has made it clear that relations with Fidel Castro's regime will not be normalized as long as human rights are violated in Cuba.

Chilean Socialist Party Senator Ricardo Nunez, who recently visited Cuba, asked his government to help end the U.S. blockade against Cuba and labelled the blockade "immoral" and "criminal."

Nunez compared the blockade to a "medieval siege," adding that it is "currently a major cause of poverty and hunger" in Cuba.

"The situation in Cuba is very serious. The people, especially Cuban children, are going hungry because there is no food, schools are unable to function, and there is no propane in the homes for cooking," Nunez reported.

He said that at the upcoming meeting of the Socialist International in Lisbon, he will call upon all socialist parties to support a motion rejecting the U.S. blockade.

He added that, taking advantage of Chile's prestige, they [not further identified] will apply pressure from this country to put an end to the U.S. blockade.

Nunez explained that Chilean Socialists do not share Castro's opinions about socialist democracy, but at the same time they cannot ignore the fact that the Cuban leader "has ennobled the history of our continent."

Nunez said that he is in favor of resuming diplomatic relations with Cuba because "there is nothing against it and the reasons given for the severance of relations at the time have been overcome by events."

Sen. Nunez voiced his confidence that relations between the two countries will be resumed "as soon as possible" and humanitarian aid will be sent to that country.

New Bolivian President Comments on Relations With Chile

PY0808035593 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Newly inaugurated Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada said today that his government will study the possibility of renewing diplomatic relations with Chile. We have a report by our special correspondents from La Paz:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] The seventh of August is a historic day in Bolivia, a day to recall the glories of its Armed Forces. According to tradition, the main ceremony was held at the El Alto Air Base where, headed by President Sanchez de Lozada, the troops pledged allegiance to the flag. This was an appropriate time for insisting on the demand for a sea outlet, and the Bolivian Armed Forces commander did so, saying that Bolivia had been unjustly left enclosed and isolated after the Pacific War. [passage omitted]

After the ceremony, Bolivian Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar was asked about relations with Chile.

[Aranibar] The remarks made by Armed Forces Commander General Oscar Vargas represent a national feeling, and what the new government will do is to get a national concensus on this issue and act consequently.

[Reporter] In the afternoon, President Sanchez de Lozada met with Cuban President Fidel Castro, whose presence in La Paz was marked by controversy. After the meeting Sanchez de Lozada talked with Chilean reporters.

[Sanchez de Lozada] Our relations with Chile are of the highest priority. We will evaluate our relations, because as I said in my speech, miracles only come about with imagination and work.

[Reporter] Sanchez de Lozada added that this is the time to open and not to close doors. He said that Chile and Bolivia have changed, and it is therefore possible to achieve a successful solution for the two countries. [end recording]

Oil-Related Agreement Signed With Argentina

PY0708153893 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma formally accepted the agreement negotiated with Argentina to facilitate air operations in the 12th Region.

The minister sent a letter to his Argentine counterpart, Guido Di Tella, accepting the proposal the Argentine Government submitted on 7 July.

This agreement will allow helicopters from TAP Air Company, based in the 12th Region, to carry oil workers to and from the M3 offshore oil platform operating in Argentine waters in the Atlantic Ocean.

The agreement has to do with a project to build four similar oil platforms through the international division of Enap [Chilean National Petroleum Enterprise] and PETROL [expansion unknown] at the cost of $180 million. The second platform, AM2, is being towed to the Atlantic Ocean to join Argentina's offshore oil exploitation project, which is being developed with the help of Chilean workers. The project has been described as a major landmark in the process of integration and technological exchange between the two countries.

Colombia

Small U.S. Plane Forced To Land in Barranquilla

PA0908014793 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0035 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Barranquilla—The Colombian Air Forces has forced a small U.S. registered aircraft to land at the Ernesto Cortizo International Airport in Barranquilla

for violating Colombian airspace, and its two crewmen were arrested by the national authorities.

The aircraft, owned by the (Amtrac) company and with registration no. N-33-68, was intercepted by two airplanes of the Northern Air Command while it was flying in Colombian airspace. According to the crew made up of U.S. citizen James William (Saxman) and Belgian Ronald George (Rosnoth), the plane ran out of fuel when it was flying from Santo Domingo to Maiquetia, Venezuela.

The Civil Aeronautics authorities have begun investigations to determine the truth.

Gaviria on Recent Crisis, Guerrillas

PA0608182293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Interview with Colombian President Cesar Gaviria by Dario Arizmendi at Narino Palace on the "Face to Face" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Gaviria] I think being pragmatic means I have not opted for rhetoric. I do not go around saying things, offering things, or making promises I cannot keep. Perhaps not everything I do turns out well, but I do it anyway. I am not too pretentious, even though there are those who claim I am. I feel I have done my duty and that is all. There are a lot of people in this country, particularly in the capital, who like rhetoric and gestures. There are politicians with fundamentalist positions who do not care if things change. All they care about is that people have their principles. They do not care if people do anything, do not do anything, or how they do it, provided they are capable of carrying out institutional reforms when they rule the country. I do not think I am like that. I like to do things. I would like to be remembered as a man who helped abolish some of the feudalism in this society, which is still so feudal, so terribly feudal.

[Arizmendi] Defining President Cesar Gaviria would be a titanic task. He is not only cold, aloof, and inscrutable; he knows perfectly well that when a head of state's intentions are obvious, he becomes vulnerable. Good or bad, he is a leader. He acts, has control, and is sure about his decisions as a leader.

His personal life and leisure activities are given the same attention as his actions as president. We cannot say he is romantic or [word indistinct]. Issues that are essential to man—love and passion—do not seem to interest him; or perhaps he thinks they are guaranteed for life with the complicity of Ana Milena, that stalwart companion of the last 15 years and possibly the only one who reached the depths of his soul and the innermost recesses of his heart.

Institutionally speaking, was democracy in Colombia ever endangered some night, some day in the past?

[Gaviria] We....[pauses] When I assumed the presidency after the death of Luis Carlos Galan, in all that political process, I do think democracy in Colombia was endangered. There was a major institutional crisis, there was widespread distrust in our institutions. The state's capacity to confront the organized terrorism that had resulted from drug trafficking was questioned. I think there were times when democracy was in danger. I also think some feel there have been times during my mandate, during Constituent Assembly sessions, that the state of law could have been endangered. I did not perceive it as such, although I acknowledge there could have been some basis for fears that it would occur, but it did not occur. There was a great deal of maturity, and I did not have that fear. Perhaps when for a few hours the risk existed that a large number of drug traffickers, bandits, and the worst criminals of this country were to be let out into the streets en masse, at that time I felt democracy was endangered.

[Arizmedi] On that occasion, how far were you willing to go?

[Gaviria] I would have done everything in my power to keep that from happening, or, should I say, I decided that it would not happen. Neither judges' orders nor anything else would have mattered, because I am certain that the country's institutions cannot run the risk that, due to legal nuances, we were going to end up with criminals in the streets.

[Arizmendi] It would have been a coup d'etat.

[Gaviria] I do not know what would have happened. Fortunately, we found a way out, we found a solution, and we have continued on that road with ups and downs, with difficulties.

[Arizmendi] Have you ever feared a military action against democratic institutions?

[Gaviria] Not even the slightest fear. I have never had a difficult moment with them. Colombian soldiers really respect this democracy. They have a very constructive attitude toward complex issues such as peace processes and surrender policies. They have always been constructive and positive. I have never had any such concerns.

The transition to a civilian defense minister could have been a difficult time, but that was not the case. There was not one act or incident that could have been cause for concern. Escobar's escape created some tension that, fortunately, was satisfactorily, calmly, and positively resolved through common agreement. Thus I have never had such concerns at any time.

[Arizmendi] Do you think the experience with the civilian defense minister deserves to be maintained in upcoming governments?

[Gaviria] I think the country took that step, and generally speaking, the idea has been well-received. I think this experience yielded good results. It happened at a time when he have considerably strengthened the public force

and state security policies. I think these factors helped the experience to have good results. We are much more organized in our efforts to invest in the public force. We have a five-year plan that clearly outlines how investments in that sector will be made. I think that is a very important achievement. We could say that this has been a spectacular period of growth in defense and security expenditures, which have grown 60 percent in real terms. That is exceptional.

Maintaining public order is essentially a civilian duty. To a great extent, we civilians extent must assume responsibility for public order and the success of such policies. I think that my recognition of public order as the most important aspect of Colombian politics was one of the factors that helped me reach the Presidency. It convinced someone that I could assume this responsibility. Public security continues to be the main issue.

[Arizmendi] Mr. President, as you said, the budget was increased, but people expect to see results, they want the heads of specific individuals. They want Tirofijo [Manuel Marulanda, leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC], Priest Manuel Perez [Army of National Liberation leader, ELN], and other top leaders [secretariado]. Why have they not been caught as the soldiers promised about eight months ago?

[Gaviria] There have been excellent results in terms of public order. Of course, one would have like to have captured them. Nevertheless, we have had excellent results. Kidnappings and guerrilla attacks have decreased significantly, and the number of guerrillas captured, killed in combat, and turned over to the authorities has doubled between July 1992 and the present.

[Arizmendi] How do you explain, President, that many guerrillas who had reintegrated themselves into society are now returning to the guerrillas because they feel disappointed or betrayed by certain official institutions?

[Gaviria] I would not say many, but rather a few of them. In every reconciliation or peace process, not only in Colombia but in all countries, there are always guerrilla holdouts; guerrillas who continue the armed struggle and guerrillas who decide to rejoin civilian life but are unable to assimilate and begin committing crimes. It always happens. Every guerrilla group that has chosen to rejoin civilian life has left behind small redoubts. They are, however, large groups.

[Arizmendi] Is it not contradictory to spend about 15 percent of the national budget on security and militarization when much less is spent on social security?

[Gaviria] You could argue that if we lived in an ideal world. The figure you are quoting, however, is comparable to those in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Venezuela, most of Central America, and developed countries such as England and the United States. All countries make these kinds of expenditures in one way or another. Our figures for security and defense, even at the beginning of this administration, were relatively low in comparison to those of other Latin American nations.

[Arizmendi] Going back to your inaugural speech, you promised a policy of understanding and pacification. That was one of the highlights of the speech. What has happened to make you not want regional talks or talks with the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board?

[Gaviria] I did not promise to hand over the country to guerrillas so they could do as they pleased. We have met with them. We have been willing to discuss the topics they wanted to discuss. Unfortunately, they lack a clear political program and do not have clear demands regarding society. They lacked the courage to realize that they are an antediluvian species, dinosaurs in the midst of a world and society that wants to resolve problems through peaceful and democratic means. So long as those gentlemen persist in the armed struggle, violence, and terrorism, it will be very difficult to make peace. It takes two to have peace. The important thing is to have the conditions for holding talks. I do not mean the regional talks the guerrillas want, where mayors, governors, and lawmakers go there to explain their actions to them and promise to carry out projects based on the rebels' threats and intimidation. Deep down, that is what the regional talks are. The rebels tell them: We remain guerrillas, and you stay there but come here and explain your actions and pledge to do projects at our bidding. That is more or less the meaning of the regional talks. That is why I say no and will continue to say no, because that is unacceptable.

We could have regional talks within a peace process, when we are certain that peace will come, that they will forsake the armed struggle, and that the talks will not simply turn into a way for civilian society to offer explanations to guerrillas or make pledges to them while they remain guerrillas. No way.

[Arizmendi] The guerrillas will disband in exchange for what?

[Gaviria] In exchange for a negotiation. The negotiation must obviously include their surrender, abandoning the armed struggle, guarantees offered to them to engage in politics, protection for them, and economic assistance to make it possible for them to rejoin society. There may be negotiations on aspects of the state's policies, as we did with the 19 April Movement [M-19], as well as on more advanced talks.

[Arizmendi] Human rights violations are another blemish that the country has had for a long time, especially as far as the international community is concerned. Do you think we will ever control those units or state agents who abuse and violate human rights?

[Gaviria] International human rights organizations, at least the more serious ones, have commended Colombian for its new Constitution, although there may be a

couple of provisions they do not like. They commend the petition for protection as a major instrument for defending human rights. We are commended for what we have done in the field of justice by creating the Prosecutor General's Office, seeking an efficient justice system, capturing a large number of criminals, and because Colombia is no longer a country where impunity prevails since justice works. But we still have a way to go yet.

[Arizmendi] The world is well aware of the crimes by drug traffickers and guerrillas in Colombia. People wonder about the impunity with which state security corps violate human rights, something that turns us into one of the worst offenders in the world and could have economic repercussions for us. What do you say to your people about this matter?

[Gaviria] We have been seriously working on these things. We have worked with the Armed Forces and the new civilian defense minister on these topics. We have to work harder in the future to resolve specific cases and not just institutional problems. You are right that abroad this constitutes a very big problem for the country. We must devote our attention to this problem more seriously and with greater interest. We must make a greater effort abroad to explain our policies and our situation and to resolve the problems of violence and human rights violations that exist in Colombian society.

[Arizmendi] You have received the most criticism, not only from your permanent detractors and foes, but also from your true friends and unofficial—or as I call them, obsequious—government aides, in the social field. Regardless of other policies, it seems most of the criticism centers around that topic. Some say it is related to your coldness and alleged insensitivity.

[Gaviria] The truth is that we have dramatically increased social spending from 10 to 25 percent. We have increased social investment from 25 to 41 percent. We have made important changes in our social policies. We have geared our housing policies toward direct subsidies. We have a potable water program that is really working very well. There is a bill awaiting approval in Congress that will mean an unprecedented change in the health sector. We are working on pensions and education. Now, it is very easy to say that we do not have a social policy because there are poor people in Colombia. Of course, confronted with such an argument, I would have to say that no government will ever have a social policy.

[Arizmendi] Do you believe that there has been a lack of pencils?

[Gaviria] Of course, there has been a lack of pencils. [as heard] Much of the criticism is valid for one logical reason, which is that significant changes have been made here. [Words indistinct] is reflected, but there are many problems to be resolved in this society. We need more pencils. We need to reduce poverty. We need to stop spending so much money on security, defense, and public forces when we could use it for other purposes. The problems will always be there. The effort this country must undertake is just beginning.

[Arizmendi] [seven-second break in reception] will be the presidential mark regarding the presidential designate?

[Gaviria] In a democracy, authorities must allow people to compete. However, the process of the presidential designate has always been carried out with the approval of the president. I do not see a problem with the Board of Liberal Party Legislators appointing the presidential designate. I hope that the tradition of other parties abiding by and respecting that decision will be continued.

I do not foresee the president intervening in this process, unless there are exceptional circumstances, which I do not think will happen.

[Arizmendi] Do you feel as satisfied and comfortable with Dr. William Jaramillo as you did with Dr. Juan Manuel Santos?

[Gaviria] There is no doubt about it. I think they both meet the qualifications required to replace the president either temporarily or permanently. They both have excellent qualifications, and I feel equally satisfied with one or the other.

[Arizmendi] Mr. President, everything indicates that the New Democratic Force [NFD] wants to remain in the government until the end of your administration, but NFD Ministers Luis Alberto Moreno and Dr. Luis Fernando Ramirez would leave the cabinet. Would they be replaced by members of the movement led by Andres Pastrana?

[Gaviria] I have heard the opposite about the everything indicates cliche that you mentioned. I often hear people say that everything indicates that the NFD is going to withdraw from the government. Now you are telling me that everything indicates that it will remain.

Truly, I have not sensed a desire on the part of the NFD to either leave or remain in the government. I see them in the cabinet, and they appear to be satisfied and comfortable. I see them working. The NFD has two good ministers. I would like for them to stay. I am not able to anticipate the political situation of the future.

[Jose Salgar of EL ESPECTADOR] Today the Liberal Party [PL] appears to be in disarray and its discipline and morale appear to be low. I ask the president, who represents that party in governing the country? In the home stretch of your term, what will you offer the PL so it can remain in power for the next four years?

[Gaviria] Well, I would say that both parties in Colombia have had a tradition of disorganization. It has to do with institutional affairs and the fear of violence. We have not worked enough to establish order and discipline mechanisms in the political parties in Colombia. That is a

feature of this democracy. I hope the country and PL acquire a sense of transformation, a vocation to change Colombian society and reality. That is what makes the party an ever-changing party.

[Arizmendi] Mr. President, does being imitated annoy or amuse you?

[Gaviria] It amuses me.

[Arizmendi] Do you laugh?

[Gaviria] Of course. [laughs]

[Arizmendi] Let us see if it is true. [recording of an unidentified comedian imitating President Gaviria speaking while Gaviria and Arizmendi laugh in the background]

Defense Minister Discusses New Budget Allocations

PA0708040893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Interview with Defense Minister Rafael Pardo by Marcela Duran at the Defense Ministry Building in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Duran] The government yesterday approved an addition to the budget of 44 billion pesos. How will the money be invested?

[Pardo] This is basically an adjustment to the Defense Ministry budget, as well as of other entities, to implement fully the programs to strengthen the Armed Forces drafted since early this year. These allocations have been adjusted, and we need to invest urgently to implement fully the programs to strengthen the public force.

[Duran] Yesterday, the decrees opened the possibility of allowing the guerrillas who defect to work with military forces. How will this work, and will they be paid?

[Pardo] They will work with the security corps in general. Yes, they will be paid. Their's will be a working relationship with this corps, obviously based on the cooperation they may provide.

[Duran] Will the military forces feel a little suspicious about working hand in hand with guerrillas?

[Pardo] No, because these are people who have abandoned the guerrillas. These people want to join civilian life and work toward the goal of reinforcing democracy in Colombia.

[Duran] How much money will they be paid?

[Pardo] We have yet to settle that. It will be based on the kind of cooperation and work that can be done.

Peru

CCD Limits President's Power To Dissolve Congress

PA0808145693 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] The Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] plenum on 6 August unexpectedly approved a text that limits the president of the Republic's power to dissolve Congress. The text, presented by the majority, also limits the attributes established in a bill proposed by the ruling party faction that had been previously approved by the Constitution Commission.

Without any hindrances to speak of, the plenum approved 12 articles that comprise the chapter on the Council of Ministers. Article 144 was slightly modified to indicate that ministers who attend Congress will have the same rights as congressmen, except for the right the vote. The article also points out that the president of the Council of Ministers or at least one member of the Council must periodically appear before the plenum. The minority demanded that the frequency of this attendance be established but that motion failed.

The debate on the chapter on relations between the Executive and Legislative Branches followed. The ruling party faction suggested a significant modification to Article 149 to the effect that the president of the Republic can only dissolve Congress if Congress censures two cabinets of ministers, which is very unlikely. Congressman Carlos Ferrero rejected this new text.

[Begin Ferrero recording] Regarding an objective or subjective dissolution, in my opinion your words have vanished into thin air. Neither of the two will yield any results. We know deep down that Congress can no longer be dissolved in Peru and that the president of the Republic has been deprived of the best tool this Congress could have given him to resolve constitutional crises. [end recording]

Finally, following a broad debate during the morning session, the plenum approved the 11 articles of this chapter, including the modifications proposed by the ruling faction.

Uruguay

Lacalle Comments on Economic, Political, Labor Issues

PY0708153693 Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 1 Aug 93 p 4

[Article by Luz Marina Ferreira from Melo]

[Text] President Lacalle stated yesterday that "figures speak for themselves; we are better off now than 41 months ago," adding that, "in all likelihood, inflation will continue to fall."

Lacalle went on to say that one cannot guarantee the downward trend will continue, even though the economic policy that resulted in that trend has been confirmed. Nevertheless, he said that this trend is not as powerful as he would have liked because he failed in one of his goals, which was to "reduce the whole apparatus of government" through the reform of the social security system and the law on government-owned enterprises.

With regard to social security, Lacalle reiterated that the total amount earmarked for this system annually, $200 million, represents 6 percent of revenues collected from the value-added tax or three times more than those collected in agricultural taxes. And yet, he said, the government has not been able to reduce that "deficit" because it could not count on the backing of the necessary majority in Congress. He then reiterated that this is the most serious problem confronting the country, and unless it is solved in a timely manner a moment will come when somebody says: "It is impossible to continue this."

Asked about a possible cabinet reshuffle, Lacalle answered that ministers may be replaced for several reasons, but the government "will disclose in due time when, why, who, and by whom these changes will be made. These decisions, which can be made for different reasons, are not publicized because it is not advisable to do so."

The president of the Republic pointed out that he was victorious in the elections by polling 22 percent of the votes out of 36 percent polled by the entire National Party, in spite of the fact that one and a half years before the elections public opinion polls said he would get only 7 percent of the votes. He then said: "I have limited myself to scrupulously fulfilling my electoral proposal." He said Broad Front Deputy Francisco Rodriguez Camusso can give witness to this (something he had said some days ago during Radio El Espectador Network's In Perspective program). Rodriguez Camusso said he might disagree with the measures implemented by Lacalle, but he could not deny that he had fulfilled his promises.

Concerning the National Party, Lacalle stated that he has "an amiable and cordial relation of comradeship with 99 percent of its political leaders." He further said that he discussed "politics" with Cerro Largo Mayor Rodolfo Nin Novoa, who gave a luncheon in Lacalle's honor when he stayed there.

"When I say that we should 'pursue the causes that unite us' it is because it is necessary that at one point or another someone says: 'Even though I am an adversary of John Doe, I acknowledge the good things he has done,'" since to refuse to act in a like manner "renders any possibility of reaching a consensus impossible and is a bad symptom for society because it means that we accept or reject something according to our political slant."

Lacalle then referred to the conflict in the rural sector and the construction industry. As for agriculture, Lacalle announced that in the forthcoming week he will promulgate a law recently enacted by Congress that provides for a 15-percent reduction in income taxes for agriculture. He also stressed that the 70-percent cutback on the gas oil tax is "an unprecedented tax cut."

He nonetheless pointed out that measures for agriculture are very complex because this is a multifaceted sector and one cannot generalize. Moreover, he warned that one must have consideration for the fact that "by taking some measures one does not bother others, as is the case with the blocking of roads that has been announced."

Regarding the conflict in the construction sector, Lacalle said that "there is confidence in the government's economic policy as attested" by the level of investment in the aforementioned industry and the building of a five-star hotel. He noted that the labor force engaged in this activity has doubled, and underscored the importance of the Social Investment Program, Pris, which has been instrumental in creating 1,000 jobs in the construction industry. Lacalle noted that wages in that industry are higher than in other jobs "with more responsibility."

To conclude, Lacalle said: "Conflicts are part of the trade union freedom we are enjoying in our country."

During a comradeship luncheon, at which some 5,000 people were present according to its organizers, Lacalle said he was willing to support reforms that might improve the country's government and electoral systems "provided they are positive and deep."

Lacalle participated yesterday in a ceremony to mark the coming into operation of a telephone line between Melo and Sarandi de Barcelo. He then travelled to Acegua on the international highway to attend the dedication of 51 houses by Manuel Romay, minister of housing, land improvement, and environment. Recalling the implementation of the Movement for the Eradication of Unhealthy Rural Housing, Mevir, which started in rural areas and now is extended to cities, Lacalle said the Executive Branch is willing to grant, through the mortgage bank and the aforementioned ministry, the necessary financial resources for all Uruguayans to have access to a home.

The president will arrive at Pedro Varela at 1000 local time to dedicate a fire station, attend a parade, and open an agricultural fair at 1215 local time.

enezuela

Former Coup Leader Chavez Warns of Possible Right-Wing Coup

PA0608201693 Paris AFP in Spanish 1724 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Caracas, 6 Aug (AFP)—Commander Hugo Chavez, leader of the first rebellion faced in 1992 by

suspended President Carlos Andres Perez, drew attention on 6 August to the possibility of a new coup d'etat led to by right-wing military in Venezuela.

In an interview from Yare Penitentiary, some 20 km southeast of Caracas, published by the newspaper EL NACIONAL, Chavez said that "the situation is so serious in Venezuela that anything is possible."

The possibility raised by Chavez is that "a regrouping of the most regressive forces, of which the Army commander is a part, may lead to a coup sponsored by (suspended President) Carlos Andres Perez."

Chavez, who has been in prison since 4 February 1992 with soldier members of the so-called Bolivarian 200 Revolutionary Movement (MBR), amazed Venezuelans with his aplomb when, after his arrest, he went on television and asked his companions to lay down their weapons because although "for now" their objectives had not been achieved, better times would follow to take the country toward a better destiny. [passage omitted]

Chavez ruled out the possibility that the MBR supports any candidate in the elections, although Commander Francisco Arias, another MBR member who headed the 4 February coup attempt in the western part of the country, asked to be discharged to be able to run for deputy for the Radical Cause Party.

Chavez said: "We must unmask the deceit of the upcoming elections, designed in a fashion similar to the current political system, which means nothing will change."

Although he admitted he does not have the solution for a way out for Venezuela, Chavez said "forcefully and with conviction" that the elections are not such a solution and that he does not know if a sustained wave of violence will follow. He said that "although the best man may win the elections, unless appropriate measures are taken to confront poverty, the situation will get worse."

In this way, the military officer said the MBR's prospects are to continue to join the efforts of the "people's forces" that are gaining new ground in the nation.

He concluded by saying that the military cannot remain isolated from reality when children are starving to death and poverty is rampant in Latin America.

After staging the 4 February coup, the MBR announced that it is a group of middle class military officers who promote the idea of changing Venezuelan society.

Supreme Court on Corruption Charges Against Perez

PA0908020393 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] A ruling on the preliminary hearings on the case of suspended President Carlos Andres Perez will not be available until December 1993. Gonzalo Rodriguez Corro, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, has explained that the court is currently in the stage of the proceedings and has conducted several inspections at the Interior Ministry, the Secretariat of the presidency, the Foreign Ministry, and other government offices. It is expected, he added, that before the proceedings are over, the primary suspects in the case of the 250 million bolivares will have testified.

[Begin Rodriguez Corro recording] I think that at the rate we are going, we will have the necessary information so that a ruling may be issued by the end of December. That is what we think. However, sometimes many unforeseen circumstances come up during the investigations, and therefore we do not want to create any unwarranted expectations. [end recording]

Concerning the case of Senator Jaime Lusinchi, Supreme Court of Justice President Gonzalo Rodriguez Corro said that the proposal by Vice President Alirio Abreu will be submitted to a vote by the plenary on 10 or 12 August.

Deputies Approve Fiscal Budget; Parliamentary News Noted

PA0708042493 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Report by Jose Marcano]

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies gave first debate approval to the draft bill for the 1994 fiscal year. Now both the umbrella draft bill and the budget are ready for the second debate.

[Begin Haydee Castillo, Social Christian Party bloc leader, recording, in progress] ....they need the work badly. We have spoken to several ministers; we have talked to certain high-ranking government officials, and we have already agreed that we need to consider that this budget was drafted by the previous administration, the Perez government. This budget is being discussed by the Velasquez government, with us here in Congress, and it will be implemented by the government that wins the 1993 elections. [end recording]

It was also learned from parliamentary news that during a question and answer session of the Social Security board of directors, it was stated that if the public and private sectors do not pay off the 18-billion [currency unspecified] debt there is a risk that the fund will not be able to keep its obligations to pensioners and retirees.

On 3 August, the National Association of Journalists [CNP] board of directors, headed by its president, Eduardo Orozco, visited the National Congress to deliver a new document demanding approval of the law reform, which regulates the work of professional journalists. Orozco said that the association has been flexible with the media's private sector and has arrived at a consensus over difficult topics, especially concerning retirement and benefits.

[Begin Orozco recording] We have taken this last step in view of the fact that the parliamentary sessions will close 15 August, and we believe there is still time, if the senators have the will, to approve this law, which the CNP has been demanding for 12 years. [end recording]

On 4 August, parliament received smiling children [children chanting], who use the holidays to become familiar with the place where senators and deputies establish the rules that chart the country's destiny.

[Begin recording] [Marcano] What do you call this big house you are visiting today?

[Unidentified student] This one? The capitol.

[Marcano] Were you told what Congress does?

[Second unidentified student] To legislate, to try and help the country, and to ensure that laws are obeyed.

[Third unidentified student] To discuss existing problems and their possible solutions. [end recording]

Parliamentary sources disclosed that by the afternoon of 5 August at the latest, the Chamber of Deputies will approve the law granting special powers to the president to take steps regarding economic and financial matters. This means that it will be next week before a similar process takes place, with a first and second debate, which will receive urgent attention. By 12 August at the latest, the legislation will be approved.